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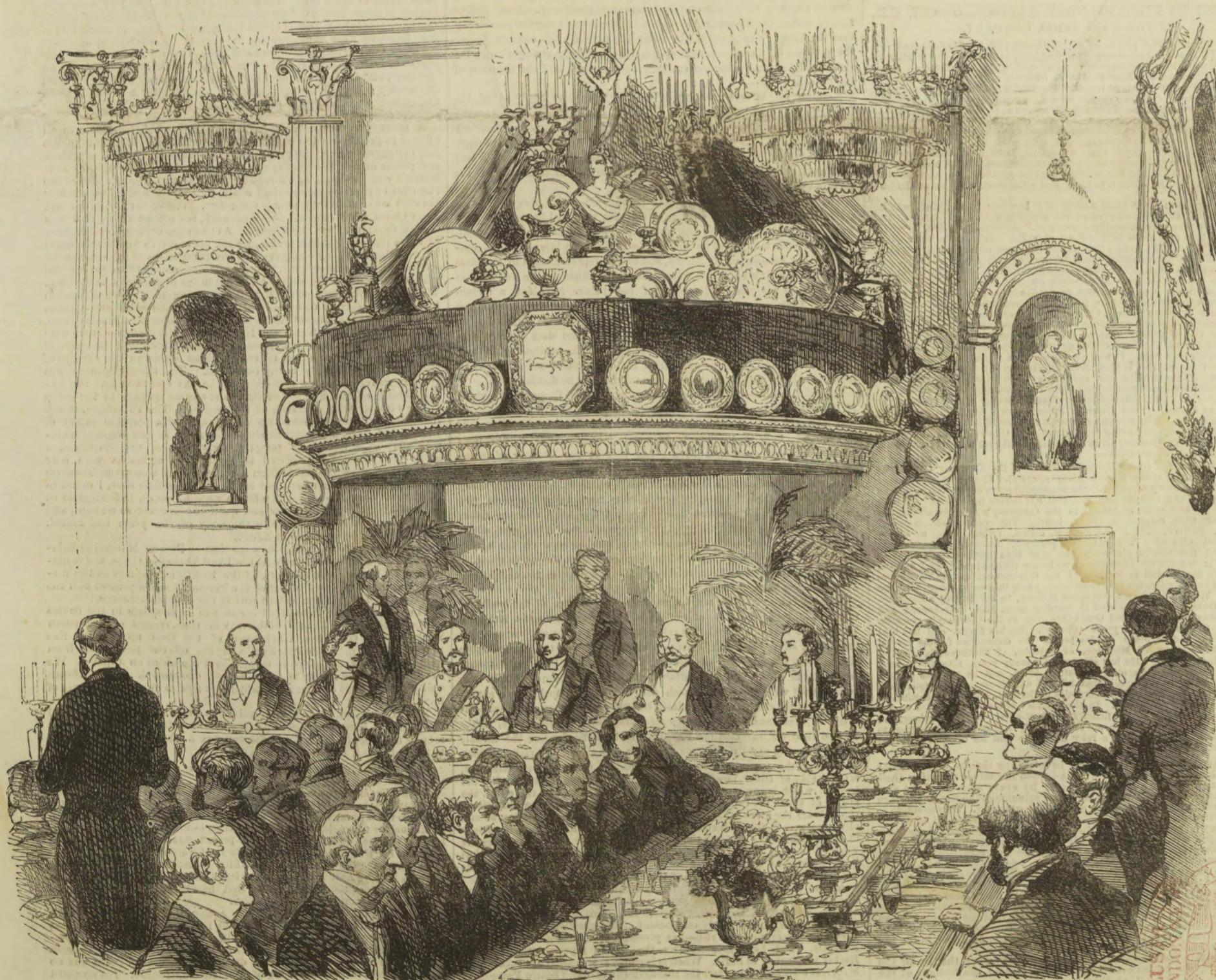
### OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.

SOME people, not usually deficient in worldly shrewdness or common sense, still profess to be ignorant of the causes of the war against Russia. The old proverb that "there are none so blind as those who will not see" sufficiently explains their state of mind. But this class of persons—of whom Mr. Bright may be considered the leader and spokesman—does not suffer from the same infirmity of temper in the case of the untoward quarrel which has sprung up betwixt this country and the United States. They know all about it, and share the opinions of their countrymen—that a war, if it unfortunately arise, will not be one of England's seeking; and that the guilt and shame of it will be upon the heads of those officials in the United States who do everything to provoke and nothing to prevent it.

The causes of difference are so simple that all the world can appreciate them. Great Britain is accused by a party in the interest of the actual President, and by the principal law-officer of that great magistrate, of an infraction of the laws of

the United States, in having encouraged, through the agency of the British Minister at Washington, the enlistment of American citizens for the British Foreign Legion. The British Government did not seek to defend its ill-advised and useless act. It ceased the enlistment immediately that complaint was made, and offered an apology more than sufficient to satisfy the greatest of European Powers, which might, under similar circumstances, have felt itself aggrieved. If Great Britain and the United States could have been personified as two honest, sensible, high-minded, chivalrous, Christian gentlemen, the apology tendered by this country would not only have been deemed sufficient, but would have strengthened between the two, the friendship that had been threatened with interruption. The plaintiff in the cause would have felt esteem as well as admiration for the ready courtesy, the manly bearing, and the prompt satisfaction afforded by the defendant; and would have confessed in his secret heart that one who could afford to be so just was a friend worth having. May not this yet be the turn which events will take on the other side of the Atlantic? We sincerely trust that it will. Even Mr. Bright, whom

the prospects of peace with Russia have inclined to be reasonable, takes pains to declare before the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and before the world, that on this question he is "as much against doing anything that could bring humiliation on his country as any man can be." But President Pierce, and those who share with him the honours and emoluments of office, appear to desire nothing so much as to humiliate this country. We do not believe that this gentleman and his party truly represent the feeling of the United States in this matter. Whether they do, or not, Great Britain will not inflict humiliation upon herself to please his vanity, or to further his supposed interests, or the necessities of his ambition. Strong in the consciousness both of Might and of Right, this nation may afford to forgive an insult wantonly inflicted; but it will not inflict degradation upon itself by dishonourable and pusillanimous acquiescence in demands that ought never to have been made. If the Government of Mr. Pierce have determined not to tolerate the presence of Mr. Crampton as British Representative in Washington, so be it. Let Mr. Pierce request that Minister, if he pleases, to pack up his goods and chattels and



THE HON. EAST INDIA COMPANY'S BANQUET AT THE LONDON TAVERN TO LIEUTENANT-GENERAL PATRICK GRANT, C.B., THE NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF MADRAS.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

return to London; and it is highly probable that this country will be magnanimous enough to forgive the courtesy, and to endeavour to find consolation for the want of a representative at the White House. The heavens will not crack, the sun will not cease to shine, or the earth to yield its harvests, because there is "an Excellency" the less on the other side of the Atlantic, or because Mr. Pierce has behaved in his public capacity in a manner which in his private capacity as a gentleman he would neither have imitated nor recommended.

The other cause of dispute—that relative to the worthless islands of Belize—is quite as simple, and of as little importance to this country. A gentleman, if we appeal to his generosity, will often give away a thousand pounds, and be glad of the opportunity, but he will not be bullied out of a farthing. Whether, under the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, these islands ought or ought not to be considered under the protectorate of Great Britain is not of the slightest consequence to this nation, except in so far as a great principle is concerned. The British Government has offered to submit the case to arbitration, and to abide by the award. What more can honest America desire? There is not a man in these islands who would not rather give the United States the town and dependencies of Belize—were they a thousand times more valuable than they are—than waste a pound of powder or singe the hair of an Englishman's or American's head in the quarrel to retain them. If the "bumptious" Mr. Pierce will not submit to arbitration, he is condemned beforehand in the great tribunal of civilisation; and forces the sympathy and the conscience of the world to declare themselves against him.

We have no fear, as some of our contemporaries have, of wounding what is called the "susceptibility" of the United States. It is enough that this nation should apologise for an unintentional wrong, and submit its real or assumed rights to the arbitration of any State or Sovereign that the Americans themselves will name; but that Englishmen should speak with "bated breath," lest their too-jealous and thin-skinned cousins should take offence, is too much. This country is not afraid of America; and will not yield to mere bullying, come whence it may. Englishmen will speak their mind on this question as on every other. Their mind is that a war with the United States would be a most deplorable calamity—a scandal to our blood, our civilisation, and our religion—a horror too great to be adequately designated—and a catastrophe that they would do anything to avoid consistent with the honour which makes the character of nations as well as of individuals. If misjudging or passionate men in America shall force us into such a war—in spite of warning—in spite of apology—in spite of justice;—on their heads will be the penalty and the shame. Great Britain, washing her hands of the guilt and the responsibility, will go into the struggle with a sorrowful but a resolute heart; and it will be strange indeed if America do not get the worst of it.

#### BANQUET TO LIEUT.-GENERAL PATRICK GRANT, C.B., BY THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

A GRAND banquet was given by the Directors of the East India Company, at the London Tavern, on Saturday last, to Lieut.-General Patrick Grant, C.B., on the appointment of that distinguished officer as Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, and his approaching departure from England for the purpose of assuming that high and important post. These valedictory entertainments have at all times their own especial points of interest: but the present more than usually so, for it was inaugurative as it were of a new era in the history of the Company's forces, and served to celebrate the abolition of the distinction which has so long and invidiously existed between the gold and silver epaulettes—the Queen's and the Company's army in India. That distinction has now literally, "by force of circumstances," at length disappeared, and General Grant is the first officer in the military service of the Company who has been selected by the Crown to take the chief command in an Indian presidency.

The banquet was given upon a scale of splendour in all points worthy of the wealthiest and most powerful corporation in the world. The spacious hall was magnificently decorated. A fine collection of costly articles of plate and *virtu* adorned an elevated buffet at the back of the Chairman. The buffet, called "St. George's," was nearly twenty feet in height, and, the background being formed of rich crimson velvet, produced a gorgeous effect. The supporters of the Royal arms, in white and gold, were placed on each side, while on the top stood a figure of Victoria holding a jewelled crown of gold over a bust of her Majesty. The various compartments were filled with numerous tasteful specimens of art in the precious metals, and the whole was brilliantly lighted up with a large number of wax-lights. At the centre of the head table, and in front of the chairman, was an elegantly-designed plateau in solid silver, representing the Sikh chiefs delivering up their arms at the close of the campaign in 1849. It was presented as a testimonial to the late Lieutenant-General Sir Walter Raleigh Gilbert by the officers of the Indian army engaged with that gallant General in the Sikh campaign. The other tables were decorated with gilt candelabra, vases, baskets, and other articles of *virtu*, purchased by Messrs. Bathe and Co., from the collection at Stowe, of the Duke of Sussex, Lord Lichfield, and other eminent collectors. The company present numbered nearly 200 persons.

The usual loyal toasts having been given, the Chairman, in proposing the health of Lieut.-General Grant, said they had met that evening on a novel and interesting occasion—

We now for the first time welcome an officer of the Company's service as Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army (Cheers). The Court of Directors have long and anxiously striven for the accomplishment of the object now so happily attained, and we have ever felt that our failure hitherto had not been attributable to any want of officers in the Company's army in all respects qualified for such commands (Hear, hear). The names of Malcolm, Ochterlony, Pollock, Nott, and many others, forbid such a supposition (Loud cheers). The wall of partition, however, between the Queen's and the Company's army has now been broken down (Cries of "Hear"); the system of exclusion no longer obtains; and, as I believe, to the entire and cordial satisfaction of the Government and to the officers generally of both armies, the field of selection is now thrown freely open (Great cheering). We feel deeply grateful to her Majesty's Ministers, and to all those who have assisted in bringing about this long-desired and happy consummation. General Grant has been in the Company's army for some thirty-five or thirty-six years (Cheers). He has fought and has bled in our service, and he bears on his person the decorations for the several battles of Mahrarajpore, of Moodkee, of Sobraon, of Chilliawallah, and of Goozerat (Loud cheers). He has also, and for many years, filled the responsible office of Adjutant-General of the Bengal Army, and he has thus had the opportunity of acquiring precisely that kind of experience in the discipline and management of troops, both in quarters and in the field, which is of inestimable value in a commander-in-chief. In the conduct of his several duties he has manifested all those qualities of firmness, impartiality, evenness of temper, and zeal for the public service, which are so essentially necessary in the position to which he has been raised. We fully anticipate that his command will be attended with the best results.

Lieutenant-General Patrick Grant, in returning thanks, said he would take upon himself to assure all who had aided in these results that their generous exertions were fully appreciated by every member of the vast army of India, whose loyalty, fidelity, and attachment to their Sovereign and their country had never been called into question. He should go to India unfeathered by pledge or promise of any kind, resolved to devote every energy he possessed to the discharge of the important duties that devolved upon him, and thinking only of the public service, its efficiency, and well-being (Loud cheers). He felt that he was undertaking a very great responsibility, in his case peculiarly so, and he trusted he would be enabled to acquit himself of it to the satisfaction of the high authorities who had done him the honour to select him for the proud position of Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Madras, the first officer of the Company's service on whom that proud distinction had been conferred. In conclusion, he said they could not expect a lengthened speech from an old soldier of thirty-five years' standing, who commenced his military career at fifteen years of age, and who now for the first time in his life addressed a public assembly (Loud cheers).

Rear-Admiral Sir Stephen Lushington, in returning thanks for the Navy, stated that he believed he fairly represented the feelings of the Navy when he stated that they were greatly disappointed that the

Russian ships had never come out of the harbour to give us a chance, and he assured the company that it was a mistake to suppose that the English navy was at all times a superior force to that of the enemy, for he had the command of one of the thirteen ships, under Admiral Dundas, which were of the port of Sebastopol for twenty-four hours, when the Russians had seventeen ships lying behind their fortifications; and, if all was gold that glittered, they even had nineteen vessels of war (A laugh). But the enemy never came out; and, after they had sunk their ships and had blocked up their harbours, we had no further chance at sea; and some portion of our naval force was landed to assist at the work in the trenches, where he hoped the blue-jackets had distinguished themselves. If peace should be concluded the navy of this country might take care of the colonies, or of whatever else might require their attention; but, if, the war should be continued, he felt justified in saying that never before in the history of this country was the British navy better prepared for it, and never felt more powerful than it did at present; for, before the spring arrived, there would not be less than 400 gun-boats ready to attack the Russians in the Baltic, or defend our own island (Loud cheers).

Several other toasts were given in the course of the evening—including "Her Majesty's Ministers," to which the Duke of Argyll responded; and the "Houses of Parliament," which was acknowledged by Lord Campbell and the Hon. Edward Ellice, M.P.

Mr. Toole was the very efficient toastmaster of the evening.

#### FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

##### FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

THE carnival has wound up much as usual. Out of doors the same procession of the *bois gras*, the same masks, the same ceaseless blowing of horns through all the streets during three mortal days; the same number of women catching, literally, their deaths of cold, by exposing bare heads, necks, and arms to a wintry atmosphere, perched on triumphal chariots, without even the power of giving by movement a little circulation to their benumbed members. Indoors have been feasts, balls, receptions, rejoicings of all sorts: more, indeed, than usually occur even at this season, so general is the feeling of satisfaction and confidence established by the prospect, not regarded as a certain one, of peace.

At the Court has been another ball, but quite of an intimate character, in the Empress's private apartments; and a few days previously was given a family dinner, to celebrate the anniversary of the marriage of the Emperor and Empress. The ball at the *présidence* of the Corps Législatif was extremely brilliant. The Princess Mathilde, the Queen Christine, with the Duc de Rianzares, and her third daughter, were, with innumerable other distinguished personages, present at the fête. There was a question of arranging that the accoucheur of the Empress (Dr. Paul Dubois) should remain altogether at the Tuilleries until the arrival of the event, expected within the next four or five weeks. The Emperor, however, has decided that he should continue his visits to the hospital of the Hôtel Dieu; but that he should, as a precautionary measure, take possession of the apartments arranged for his reception at the Tuilleries.

It is proposed that chloroform shall be adopted on the occasion of the Empress's confinement. Certain members of the faculty object to the employment of this means; but the example of the Queen of England (whose advice on the subject is said to have considerable weight with the Emperor and Empress) is cited in favour of its adoption; and it appears highly probable that the question will be decided in the affirmative. It is reported that, in case this decision is adopted, Mr. Leslie, Surgeon Accoucheur to the Queen, will be present on the occasion.

So far have the expectations relative to the conclusion of peace been carried that the names of some of the Sovereigns of Europe are already cited as about to visit Paris on the signature of the treaty. Among these figures that of the Emperor Alexander. There seems a certain probability that the Emperor of Austria will fulfil this rumour; his conduct during the progress of the arrangements with Russia having strongly cemented the friendship and confidence existing between him and the Emperor of the French.

Nothing is yet decided relative to the important question of the Polytechnic School. Some years back the Maréchal St. Arnaud drew up the plan of a new organisation for this institution entirely as a military establishment. This project is at present under examination; but there is no doubt that, whatever be the system adopted, the arrangements will be, if not entirely new, a series of most important modifications on the present system.

The Schools of Law and Medicine are also about to undergo very considerable alterations; it is even reported that they will be removed from Paris, and Orleans is one of the localities named for their establishment. The turbulence manifested by the students on certain late occasions, especially at the lectures of M. Nisard, and on the representation of the piece of M. Charles Edmond, "La Florentine" (to which, as the author was known to be a friend and protégé of the Prince Napoléon, a certain political feeling was attached), has particularly directed the attention of Government to these establishments, and more than ever disposed it to the adoption of new measures, which for some time were vaguely contemplated. Great difficulties, however, exist in the realisation of any projects on these subjects; and, until the complete re-establishment of peace, it is little likely any important measures will be decided upon.

The third and fourth volumes of the works of the Emperor Napoleon III. have just appeared.

It appears that M. Clesinger does not intend to establish himself in England, and that, though his statue of François I. has been refused, a fresh order has been given him by the Minister of State. In the present statue the faults chiefly observable are rather in the choice of the position than in a want of skill or talent. The horse, being pulled up short, has the hind legs gathered so much under him as to give an idea of a want of sufficient base to support the body and the rider; whose position, moreover, though in strict accordance with the mode of the time—being upright in the stirrups—throws him forward on the horse's shoulders, and gives a stiff and awkward appearance to the whole group.

At the Tuilleries has been celebrated the marriage of the daughter of Prince Lucien Bonaparte with Comte Gabrielli.

Nothing can exceed the magnificence and the elegance of the cradle, or rather cot, prepared by the city of Paris as an offering to the Empress. The form is that of a vessel (the principal emblem of the city's arms). At the prow a silver eagle stands with outspread wings; on the stern, a figure representing the city of Paris wearing a mural crown bears an Imperial crown, from which fall the curtains, of point d'Alençon and blue silk, embroidered with gold. On each side of the principal figure stands that of a child, one wearing a helmet, the other an olive-wreath—representative of Peace and War. On the sides are plates of bloodstone, richly framed in silver, and destined to receive emblematic figures; the initials of the Emperor and Empress are placed on each side of the railing which runs round the top; and from the cartouche, on which they are engraved, fall wreaths of silver flowers, extending to both ends of the cradle, the body of which is composed of tulip-wood. At the back of the stern, the angles of which are decorated with winged syrens in silver, a rich silver shield bears the arms of the city, surrounded with wreaths of laurel and olive, among which is twined a scroll, with the motto in enamel. A variety of other decorations enriches the whole. The figures, all in silver, are the work of some of the first artists of the day; and the ornamentation has been executed by Froment Meurice, Gallois, and Grohé, whose productions were among those most admired at the Exhibition of Industry.

At the Opéra "La Corsaire," the new ballet of MM. St. Georges and A. Adam, has a magnificent success. M. Edmond About, the young author—whose Roman story, "Tolla," excited so much attention, partly on its own merits, and partly on account of the question of plagiarism to which its appearance gave rise—has produced an unsuccessful piece at the Français, which he withdrew after the second representation. Mlle. Rachel is returned to Paris. When is her first reappearance to take place? M. Arsène Houssaye has left the management of the Théâtre Français to M. Empis, having obtained an appointment under Government.

#### THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

(From our Artist and Special Correspondent.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Jan. 26, 1856.

THE engrossing topic of the moment is peace; and, although the subject is involved in a maze of conflicting opinions and doubts, it very naturally occupies every mind to the exclusion of all else. Subalterns groan over the prospect of remaining at the lowest stage of the regimental ladder for twenty years to come; whilst old campaigners, who have shed their blood freely on Crimean battle-fields, welcome the news with joy, and look on peace with the eyes of men who are alive to its salutary influences and the prospects of coming rest. The majority, both in the English and French armies, I believe, rejoice at being relieved from the further prosecution of a war so far distant from home and civilisation. These feelings, however, are not without a certain alloy from the doubts which still obscure the real state of negotiations between the contending parties: whilst a considerable number are confident as to the truth of the rumours respecting a speedy pacification, others are to be found whose incredulity is proof against all but the positive and public declaration of peace. Marshal Pelissier, it is affirmed on the one hand, has received certain information from the French Ambassador at Constantinople that Count Esterhazy for Austria, and Herr Von Seebach for Bavaria and Saxony, presented the proposals of peace agreed to by the Western Powers, which were accepted after much hesitation by the Emperor Alexander on the night of the 17th-18th of January. Even certain conversations alleged to have passed between the Emperor and the bearers of the ultimatum are mentioned. Again it is affirmed by well-informed persons that Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, to inform him of the joyful tidings. Notwithstanding these positive affirmations, the less sanguine continue to doubt valiantly, affirming that they cannot conceive the sudden yielding of the Czar on all the points submitted to him, nor his resignation to surrender not only the mastery of the Black Sea and the protection of the Christian subjects of the Porte, but the most important part of Bessarabia and the mouths of the Danube. Is Russia, they say, so beaten as to be forced to consent to the ruin of Odessa and the cessation of her southern trade? Such are the arguments of those who disbelieve in peace. Their adversaries, in the mean while, are discussing the probabilities of Russia indemnifying us for the expense of laying down a railway from Balaklava to the Camp; and pleasant jokes are abroad as to whether the Czar will not think it necessary to preserve in the Crimea so useful a person as Mrs. Seacole.

To return to serious matters. It is affirmed to-day that Mr. Power, of the Commissariat, has been forwarded to Constantinople, to learn of the Porte whether it will consent to take at a valuation the stores of all kinds accumulated here and in Asia for the use of the armies—these stores amounting, as I am informed, to a total sufficient for the consumption of 70,000 men for eight months. It is difficult to conceive that the Sultan would consent to pay for that large item in the British stores—salt pork; but there seems no reason why he should not purchase other articles, although I can conceive his refusal to accept of them, except at a considerable reduction. In the midst of the obscurity which, no doubt, still hangs over the future prospects of the army, it is not a little amusing for us to learn that General Codrington has received an important despatch from home, of which the cipher is so ingenious that the General has been as yet unable to read it. Whilst peace thus absorbs our attention, the Russians appear to think of very little else but war. I allude more particularly to the forces encamped on the north side of Sebastopol. They pour in their shells and cannon-balls with unflinching energy every day, and are not impeded in their proceedings even by dark nights or thick fogs. On Sunday night (the 20th) we were astonished at about 10 p.m. by a rapid succession of discharges of heavy ordnance from the batteries of the Inkerman heights. It seemed as if the Russians were endeavouring to repulse an attempt at storming their position. Staff-officers donned their uniform and ordered their horses to be in readiness. The French on Fedoukhine heights were on the alert, and ready for action; but, after firing away for half-an-hour, the enemy became convinced that he was making a fool of himself, and ceased to deafen us with his artillery. This is what the French call *une école de nuit*.

A short time ago orders were issued by General Codrington to all officers to prepare for the ensuing campaign by the purchase of mules and baggage harness. Baggage animals were suddenly at a premium, and ponies as well as chargers rose to fabulous prices. A military Tattersall's was founded, and a regular auction-mart created. After the rumours of peace were prevalent a fall took place, and prices are fifty per cent lower than they were a week ago. Traders at Balaklava and Donnybrook, at Kamiesch and Woronoff, are aghast at the idea of a sudden departure from the Crimea. As these gentlemen, however, have hitherto realised fabulous profits, we are not sorry to find them obliged to come down in their charges; and the tribulations of the commercial world are not a source of pity. A serious loss to some of them was entailed a few days ago by a fire which broke out in one of the stores at Kadikoi. The flames broke out at three in the morning in a block of wooden buildings at no great distance from Balaklava; and before any efficient means could be taken to subdue them the fire had spread to adjacent stores, and threatened the destruction of Kadikoi. The first measures taken were judicious. It was deemed necessary to effect a breach in the chain of building by the destruction of two or three stores in the vicinity of those that were rapidly being consumed. The 82nd Regiment was speedily marched to the spot to assist in the operation and the extinguishing of the fire. The Sardinians came quickly to the scene of the disaster with a couple of fire-engines. The Tchernaya, which runs close by, was dammed up, and furnished a plentiful supply of water; but, unfortunately, the stores contained in the burning buildings were of a nature to tempt the appetites of the multitude, a great part of which preferred to flood their stomachs with beer rather than save the stock from the flames. In this shameful course not only the camp-followers but many of our soldiers were, I regret to state, very conspicuous. The officers were, however, indefatigable in their efforts to maintain order and quell the destructive element, and after a few hours all danger to the body of the place had ceased. The damage done is valued at £5000.

Captain Shervinton, acting for some time as Provost Marshal at Balaklava, has accepted a Majority in the Land Transport Corps, and is succeeded by Captain Carmichael, of the 95th, whose ability in the discharge of his duties as Provost of the Second Division pointed him out as fittest for the more important post at our port of discharge.

The destruction of Sebastopol docks will be complete in the course of the ensuing week, and nothing will then remain of a Russian work which cost the Exchequer of the Czar upwards of five millions sterling. The work of carrying off our prize guns from Sebastopol has commenced in earnest, and is carried on rapidly. We now hear that the Redan is to be rapidly dismantled. The platforms will go to the lines of Kamiesch, which are now in an advanced state of forwardness.

The weather, which has been mild, has alternated between rain and fog, and the roads continue to be in a bad state for traffic. The plains around are sloughs of mud. Yesterday was a beautiful sunny day; but last night it rained again heavily.

#### THE WAR IN THE EAST.

By the *Euphrate* steam-ship, which arrived at Marseilles on Tuesday, we have news from Constantinople to the 28th ult. The Government of the Porte do not appear to believe much in the sincerity of Russia, and preparations for the Asiatic campaign went on as usual. The Allied Generals did not hear of the probabilities of peace before the 16th of last month, and then by Russian channels, owing to the failure of the telegraph. The news was officially known to the Allied Generals on the 22nd. The Turkish Envoy, Aali Pacha, was to leave immediately for Paris. The latest news from the Crimea stated that the Allies had for some days expected an attack on their advanced lines.

The Sardinian Ambassador had an audience of the Sultan prior to leaving for Turin. General Vivian had 2000 horses purchased at Bucharest for the Anglo-Turkish Contingent. Accounts from Sebastopol to the 22nd state that the news of the acceptance of the Austrian propositions by Russia was at first disbelieved, but, when doubt was no longer possible, it caused a feeling of complete stupefaction. The northern forts had almost ceased their fire. Trade at Kamiesch is suffering severely

The excess of supplies has caused a great reduction in prices, and led to several failures. Accounts have been received from Kertch to the 20th, but they are without interest.

Conferences were held daily at the Seraskeriat on the question of the situation of the Christian subjects of the Ottoman empire. The Grand Vizier takes part in them, as also do the French and English Ambassadors and Prince Callimaki. The Turkish Government seems most favourable to reform, and the most satisfactory results are expected.

#### THE PEACE CONGRESS—THE VIENNA PROTOCOL.

The French and British Ministers at Vienna received instructions on Thursday, the 31st ult., to sign the so-often-mentioned protocol. Immediately after the receipt of the despatches, Sir Hamilton Seymour and M. de Bourqueney communicated their contents to the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs and to the Turkish Embassy. In the course of the evening it was settled that the Representatives of England, France, Turkey, and Russia should meet at the Foreign Office at twelve next day, and then and there sign the important document in question. At the appointed hour the four foreign diplomatists had assembled, and they and Count Buol attached their signatures to the subjoined protocol:—

In consequence of the acceptance by their respective Courts of the five propositions contained in the document hereunto annexed, under the title of Draught of Preliminaries, the undersigned, after having paraphrased it, conformably to authorization received to that effect, have agreed that their Governments shall each nominate Plenipotentiaries, who, furnished with the full powers necessary for proceeding to the signature of formal preliminaries of peace, shall conclude an armistice and a definite treaty of peace. The said Plenipotentiaries will have to assemble at Paris within the term of three weeks dating from this day, or sooner if it can be done.

Done at Vienna this 1st day of February, 1856.

Prince Gortschakoff, when signing the protocol, asked that Prussia might be invited to take part in the Conferences, in which request he was supported by Count Buol. M. de Bourqueney and Sir Hamilton Seymour said they must refer to their Governments on that point.

M. de Bourqueney, who received his official nomination as Plenipotentiary to the Conferences on the 31st ult., was expected at Paris about the end of this week. The following list of Plenipotentiaries is now given as authentic and definitive:—For France, Count Colonna Walewski and Baron de Bourqueney; for England, the Earl of Clarendon and Lord Cowley; for Austria, Count Buol-Schauenstein and Baron Hubner; for Turkey, Aali Pacha and Mehemed Djemil Bey; for Sardinia, the Chevalier Messimo d'Azeglio; and for Russia, Count Orloff and Baron Brunnow. The arrangements at present existing are that the Plenipotentiaries are to take up their quarters at their respective Embassies. Instructions have been received by M. Seebach, who is charged with the affairs of the Russian residents, to prepare the hotel of the Russian Embassy for Count Orloff and Baron Brunnow.

The Earl of Clarendon will leave London on the 15th or 17th inst. for Paris. The noble Secretary of State will be accompanied by Mr. Edmund Hammond, the permanent Under Secretary of State (who, it will be recollect, assisted Lord John Russell on his mission to Vienna last year), and by the Hon. Spencer Ponsonby and Mr. Thomas Villiers Lister, private and assistant secretaries to the noble Earl; and by Mr. Francis W. H. Cavendish, précis-writer. Lord Wodehouse will discharge the duties of the Foreign Office during the temporary absence of the Earl of Clarendon in Paris.

Count Walewski, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, will preside over the Conferences, according to established etiquette, as Lord Clarendon would have been the seat of the Congress. It is calculated that the sittings will last a month or six weeks.

#### THE NEW ORDER OF VALOUR.

(From *Tuesday Night's Gazette*.)

War Department, Feb. 5, 1856.

The Queen has been pleased, by an instrument under her Royal Sign Manual, of which the following is a copy, to institute and create a new naval and military decoration, to be styled and designated "The Victoria Cross," and to make the rules and regulations therein set forth, under which the said decoration shall be conferred:—

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c.,

To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting,

Whereas, we, taking into our Royal consideration that there exists no means of adequately rewarding the individual gallant services either of officers of the lower grades in our naval and military service, or of warrant and petty officers, seamen, and marines in our Navy, and non-commissioned officers, and soldiers in our Army: and whereas the third class of our Most Honourable Order of the Bath is limited, except in very rare cases, to the higher ranks of both services; and the granting of medals, both in our Navy and Army, is only awarded for long service or meritorious conduct, rather than for bravery in action or distinction before an enemy, such cases alone excepted where a general medal is granted for a particular action or campaign, or a clasp added to the medal for some special engagement; in both of which cases all share equally in the boon, and those who by their valour have particularly signalled themselves remain undistinguished from their comrades: Now, for the purpose of attaining an end so desirable as that of rewarding individual instances of merit and valour, we have instituted and created, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, institute and create, a new Naval and Military decoration, which we are desirous should be highly prized and eagerly sought after by the officers and men of our Naval and Military services, and are graciously pleased to make, ordain, and establish the following rules and ordinances for the government of the same, which shall from henceforth be inviolably observed and kept:—

Firstly. It is ordained, that the distinction shall be styled and designated "The Victoria Cross," and shall consist of a Maltese cross of bronze, with our Royal crest in the centre, and underneath which an escroll bearing this inscription, "For Valour."

Secondly. It is ordained, that the cross shall be suspended from the left breast, by a blue ribbon for the Navy, and by a red ribbon for the Army.

Thirdly. It is ordained, that the names of those upon whom we may be pleased to confer the decoration shall be published in the *London Gazette*, and a registry thereof kept in the office of our Secretary of State for War.

Fourthly. It is ordained, that any one who, after having received the cross, shall again perform any act of bravery which, if he had not received such cross, would have entitled him to it, such further act shall be recorded by a bar attached to the ribbon by which the cross is suspended; and for every additional act of bravery an additional bar may be added.

Fifthly. It is ordained, that the cross shall only be awarded to those officers or men who have served us in the presence of the enemy, and shall have then performed some signal act of valour or devotion to their country.

Sixthly. It is ordained, with a view to place all persons on a perfectly equal footing in relation to eligibility for the decoration, that neither rank, nor long service, nor wounds, nor any other circumstance or condition whatsoever, save the merit of conspicuous bravery, shall be held to establish a sufficient claim to the honour.

Seventhly. It is ordained, that the decoration may be conferred on the spot where the act to be rewarded by the grant of such decoration has been performed, under the following circumstances:—

I. When the fleet or army, in which such act has been performed, is under the eye and command of an Admiral or general officer commanding the forces.

II. Where the naval or military force is under the eye and command of an Admiral or Commodore commanding a squadron or detached naval force, or of a General commanding a corps, or division, or brigade on a distinct and detached service, when such Admiral, Commodore, or general officer shall have the power of conferring the decoration on the spot, subject to confirmation by us.

Eighthly. It is ordained, where such an act shall not have been performed in sight of a commanding officer as aforesaid, then the claimant for the honour shall prove the act to the satisfaction of the captain or officer commanding his ship, or to the officer commanding the regiment to which the claimant belongs, and such captain or such commanding officer shall report the same through the usual channel to the Admiral or Commodore commanding the force employed on the service, or to the officer commanding the forces in the field, who shall call for such description and attestation of the act as he may think requisite, and on approval shall recommend the grant of the decoration.

Ninthly. It is ordained, that every person selected for the cross, under Rule 7, shall be publicly decorated before the naval or military force or body to which he belongs, and with which the act of bravery for which he is to be rewarded shall have been performed, and his name shall be recorded in a general order, together with the cause of his especial distinction.

Tenthly. It is ordained, that every person selected under Rule 8 shall receive his decoration as soon as possible, and his name shall likewise appear in a general order as above required, such general order to be issued by the naval or military commander of the forces employed on the service.

Eleventhly. It is ordained, that the general orders above referred to shall from time to time be transmitted to our Secretary of State for War, to be laid before us, and shall be by him registered.

Twelfthly. It is ordained, that as cases may arise not falling within the rules above specified, or in which a claim, though well founded, may not have been established on the spot, we will, on the joint submission of our Secretary of State for War and of our Commander-in-Chief of our army, or on that of our Lord High Admiral or Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in the case of the Navy, confer the decoration, but never without conclusive proof of the performance of the act of bravery for which the claim is made.

Thirteenthly. It is ordained, that in the event of a gallant and daring act having been performed by a squadron, ship's company, a detached body of seamen and marines, not under fifty in number, or by a brigade, regiment, troop, or company, in which the Admiral, General, or other officer commanding such forces,

may deem that all are equally brave and distinguished, and that no special selection can be made by them; then, in such case, the Admiral, General, or other officer commanding, may direct, that for any such body of seamen or marines, or for every troop or company of soldiers, one officer shall be selected by the officers engaged for the decoration; and in like manner one petty officer or non-commissioned officer shall be selected by the petty officers and non-commissioned officers engaged; and two seamen or private soldiers or marines shall be selected by the seamen, or private soldiers, or marines, engaged respectively, for the decoration; and the names of those selected shall be transmitted by the senior officer in command of the naval force, brigade, regiment, troop, or company, to the Admiral or general officer commanding, who shall in due manner confer the decoration as if the acts were done under his own eye.

Fourteenthly. It is ordained, that every warrant officer, petty officer, seaman, or marine, or non-commissioned officer or soldier, who shall have received the cross, shall, from the date of the act by which the decoration has been gained, be entitled to a special pension of £10 a year, and each additional bar conferred under Rule 4 on such warrant or petty officers, or non-commissioned officers or men, shall carry with it an additional pension of £5 per annum.

Fifteenthly. In order to make such additional provision as shall effectually preserve pure that most honourable distinction, it is ordained that if any person on whom such distinction shall be conferred be convicted of treason, cowardice, felony, or of any infamous crime, or if he be accused of any such offence, and doth not after a reasonable time surrender himself to be tried for the same, his name shall forthwith be erased from the registry of individuals upon whom the said decoration shall have been conferred by an especial warrant under our Royal sign manual, and the pension conferred under Rule 14 shall cease and determine from the date of such warrant. It is hereby further declared that we, our heirs and successors, shall be the sole judges of the circumstance demanding such expulsion; moreover, we shall at all times have power to restore such persons as may at any time have been expelled, both to the enjoyment of the decoration and pension.

Given at our Court at Buckingham Palace, this 29th day of January, in the nineteen year of our reign, and in the year of our Lord, 1856.

By Her Majesty's command, (Signed) PANMURE.

To our Principal Secretary of State for War.

#### NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The names of the negotiators at the approaching Paris Conference are formally given. There are eleven in all. Count Walewski and Baron de Bourqueney represent France; Lords Clarendon and Cowley, England; Count de Buol-Schauenstein and Baron de Hubner, Austria; Aali Pacha and Mehemed Djemil Bey, Turkey; the Chevalier d'Azeglio, Sardinia; and Count Orloff and Baron Brunnow, Russia. Lord Palmerston has announced that there will be an armistice, but declines to say anything of its terms; though it is to be hoped that a point very properly raised by Sir De La Lacy Evans—namely, whether Russia is to use the sea, during the armistice, for fetching and carrying soldiers and stores—has not escaped attention. It is rumoured that the period will reach to the 31st March. By that time the ice in the Baltic will not be a "material guarantee" for the safety of Russia, so that, if the negotiations should be juggled into a sham, our fleet may yet distinguish itself. The Sebastopol docks are, it is stated, now utterly destroyed; so, with the ships at the bottom of the sea, and the means of reproducing them taken away, the limitation of the Russian fleet is temporarily complete. Such a humiliation has never been inflicted since gunpowder was invented. It can never be forgiven, and the certainty that it will not should make the Allies doubly careful to "take such order" that the revenge of the chastised enemy may never be formidable.

"The Victoria Cross" is the name of the new order of merit which her Majesty has been pleased to create for the reward of military and naval valour. It is avowedly instituted to remedy the defect of means to do honour to the exploits of the common soldier and sailor, and the officers of the lower grades. Thus, it is a signal evidence that the illustrious ruler of these realms comprehends the true strength of her throne. While its foundations ramify among the homes of the people, she may defy the shocks that set tottering the seats held by the bayonets or gilt sticks. The details of this wise and graceful institution will be read with interest. The cross is to be of bronze, with the inscription "For Valour." A blue ribbon marks the Navy, and a red the Army. Additional bars are to be added where the wearer performs a new act that would have given him the cross had he been undecorated. "Conspicuous bravery" alone entitles to the honour. Objection might be made to this limitation, as an act combining courage with skill—a deed that saves a detachment or secures a position—demands recognition more than the mere deed of gallantry; but it must be remembered that other distinctions are in the gift of the Queen; and indeed the Victoria Cross would hardly be an adequate recompense for the first-mentioned act. The decoration is to be publicly given, and the name of the recipient is to be recorded in a general order. With the cross is conferred a special pension of £10 a year, and each additional bar brings an additional annual £5. We trust that the institution will be as successful as the intention of its founder and head deserves it should be. Some day, perhaps, we shall hear of a Legion of Honour for those who save life, teach men how to spend it, and aid them to enjoy it nobly and wisely.

The struggle for Cambridge will be half-way through before these lines appear. It may be protracted until Tuesday next. A question on which it may turn is, whether a candidate is at liberty to pay the travelling expenses of his voters without committing bribery? This question is already, *sub lite*, in the Exchequer Chamber, and the Court is taking time for consideration. Mr. Walpole's committee decide that they will pay; Mr. Denman's, that they will not. The strength of the former is among the non-residents, especially the country clergy, with whom the expense of a journey is a consideration. Mr. Denman's force is among the residents. Chief Baron Pollock, Mr. Justice Cresswell, and Mr. Baron Alderson, are on Mr. Walpole's committee; so that the views of the latter would seem to be backed by high authority,—and the two latter Judges are among those who are "considering" the question in the Exchequer. Mr. Walpole has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, and Mr. Samuel Warren addressed the electors of Midhurst. Light-hearted people exult in the hope that he will be returned, for the mantle of Colonel Sibthorpe lies unappropriated, and would hang gracefully upon the shoulders of the author of "The Lily and the Bee." Punch ought to subscribe handsomely towards the return of a member who will be invaluable to him.

Twelve clergymen, besides some other persons, have been imposed upon by one little wretch of an Italian image-vender, a youth named Marioni, "an artless, simple boy," who captivated these gentlemen with the story that he had been converted from the Roman Catholic faith, as had his father, by means of a single Bible, and who feigned great distress because his "dear Bible" had been taken from him by a fellow-lodger. The twelve clergymen could not resist the tale of the conversion, and were very kind to him, and one was about to procure him a situation in the Christian Young Men's Association (the one that lectured the King of Sardinia the other day), but it turns out that this Christian young man's associations were of a character to which we must not even allude, and that the police had been keeping a "suspicious" eye on the young Protestant for two years. Mr. Jardine remarked that the evidence almost raised a smile at the crudity which had been evinced. But almost anything in the shape of a convert is welcome to religionists of a certain class, people—whom it would be very difficult to dupe without a previous obfuscating appeal to their theological prejudices.

Ninethly. It is ordained, that every person selected for the cross, under Rule 7, shall be publicly decorated before the naval or military force or body to which he belongs, and with which the act of bravery for which he is to be rewarded shall have been performed, and his name shall be recorded in a general order, together with the cause of his especial distinction.

Tenthly. It is ordained, that every person selected under Rule 8 shall receive his decoration as soon as possible, and his name shall likewise appear in a general order as above required, such general order to be issued by the naval or military commander of the forces employed on the service.

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Twelfthly. It is ordained, that as cases may arise not falling within the rules above specified, or in which a claim, though well founded, may not have been established on the spot, we will, on the joint submission of our Secretary of State for War and of our Commander-in-Chief of our army, or on that of our Lord High Admiral or Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in the case of the Navy, confer the decoration, but never without conclusive proof of the performance of the act of bravery for which the claim is made.

Thirteenthly. It is ordained, that in the event of a gallant and daring act having been performed by a squadron, ship's company, a detached body of seamen and marines, not under fifty in number, or by a brigade, regiment, troop, or company, in which the Admiral, General, or other officer commanding such forces,

#### METROPOLITAN NEWS.

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.—A meeting of the Board of Commissioners took place on Monday in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, for the purpose of the election of an architect, when Mr. Marable was declared duly elected.

THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.—The Council of the Society of Arts propose to hold, at their house in the Adelphi, an examination of candidates, from classes of mechanics' institutions, during the week commencing the 9th of June next. The subjects of examination will be—mathematics, mechanics, chemistry, physiology, botany, geography, English history, English composition, the Latin, French, and German languages.

ST. MARYLEBONE BANK FOR SAVINGS.—The twenty-sixth annual general meeting of this institution was held on Thursday—Sir James John Hamilton, Bart., in the chair. The several reports stated that the progress of the bank during the past year had been of a satisfactory description, no less than 2352 new deposits having been made in the last year. 23,398 deposit accounts remained open on the 20th November last, of which 18,192 held balances averaging less than £2 18s. 8d. each.

RAGGED SCHOOLS IN SOUTHWAKE.—On Monday night the annual meeting of the promoters of ragged schools in the parish of St. George the Martyr, Southwark, was held at the Literary Institution, Borough-road, and was very numerously attended. The Earl of Shaftesbury presided. From the report it appears that in the seven schools no less than 1500 children are under actual training, there being 2000 names entered on the books. Although there are 140 voluntary teachers engaged in the work of tuition, more are wanted. The present annual cost of the seven schools in St. George the Martyr is upwards of £500.

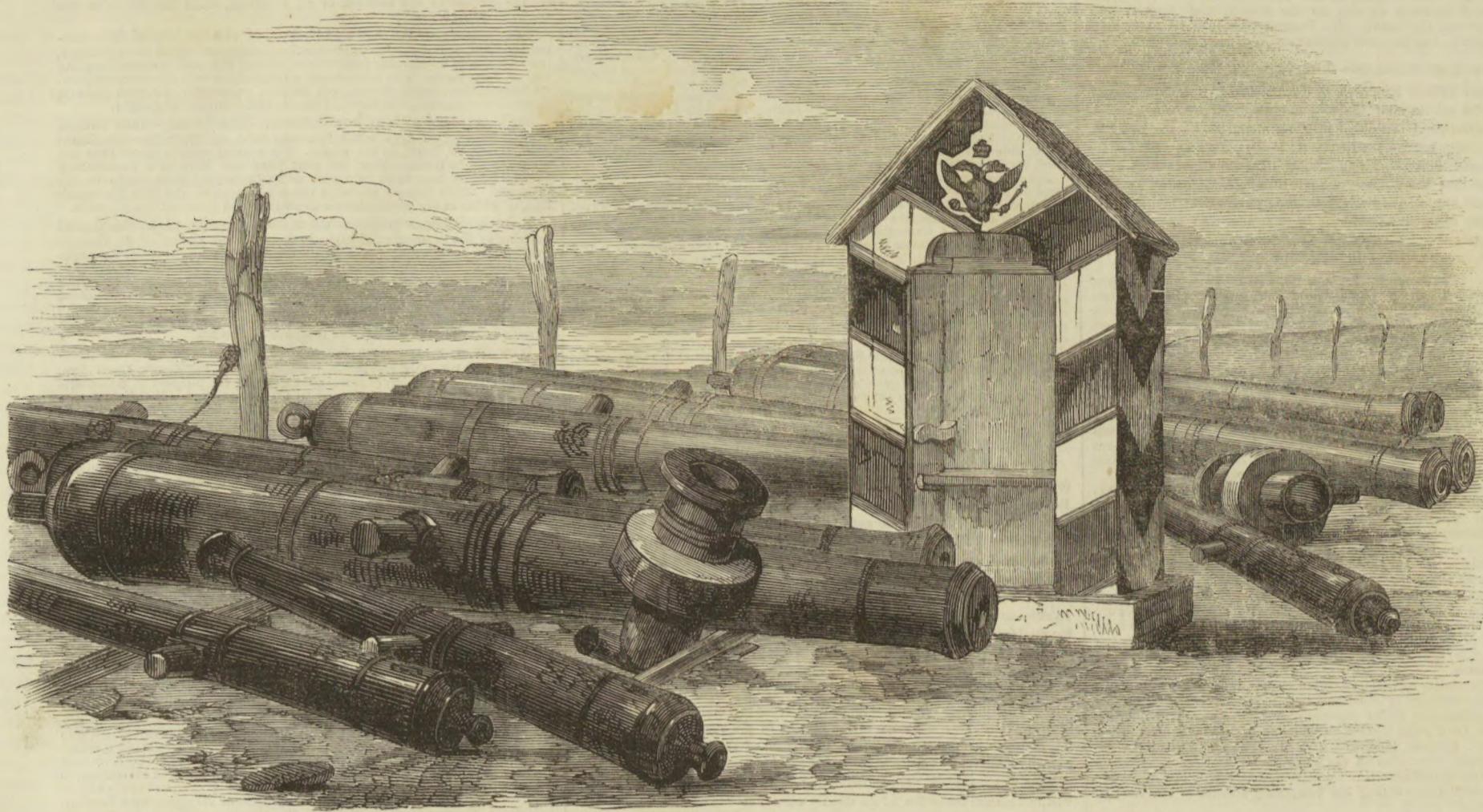
NEW STREET FROM THE STRAND TO COVENT-GARDEN.—On Tuesday morning workmen commenced taking down the Boar's Head Inn, Exeter-street, at the top of Burleigh-street, for the purpose of constructing the new street from the Strand to Covent-garden. It will be a continuation of Burleigh-street, and will cross Tavistock-street and run into Covent-garden by way of Tavistock-row, one side of which will be taken down. The new street will be a great convenience to the neighbourhood.

PRESERVATION OF LIFE FROM SHIPWRECK.—On Thursday a meeting of the Royal National Life-boat Institution was held at its house in John-street, Adelphi; his Grace the Duke of Northumberland in the chair. The silver medal of the institution was respectively voted to Henry Smyth, John Ahern, Donald Gray, Daniel Regan, William Cox, and Denis Donovan, of the Kilmore Coast guard Station, in testimony of their very gallant conduct in a boat in rescuing, at the imminent peril of their lives, six hands of the brigantine *Exile*, of New Ross. Rewards to the amount of £82 11s. 8d. were also voted to the crews of the life-boats of the institution stationed at Barmouth, Portmadoc, Moelfre, Dungeness, and Pakefield, in consideration of their laudable exertions in putting off in the said life-boats with the view of rescuing the crews of stranded vessels. Other rewards were given. Some applications for new life-boats were postponed, the funds of the institution being greatly inadequate at present to comply with the same, its liabilities for life-boats and their appurtenances being more than £2000.

REMOVAL OF NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS.—A public meeting was held at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill, on Wednesday—Sir J. Duke, Bart., M.P., in the chair—to consider the necessity and advantage of establishing a central metropolitan market on the site of Smithfield, and to prevent the attempted removal of existing markets to a distant suburb, by which the cost of food would be greatly increased to the whole body of consumers. Mr. Ross moved the first resolution, to the effect that, as the Chairman of the Board of Works had been authorised to consider the best site for the removal of Newgate and Leadenhall Markets, it was resolved that, as the question affected the interests of two and a half millions of people, and it being desirable to establish a market where people could obtain food in the best condition, and at the lowest possible rate, the site of Smithfield was adapted for that purpose. It was also resolved that a memorial be presented to Sir G. Grey, stating the wishes of the meeting, and that a petition to the House of Commons in favour of the movement be presented by Sir J. Duke and Mr. Masterman, two of the City members.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—949 deaths were registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday, Feb. 2. In the corresponding week of last year the mortality was 1604. The difference is 655. The average corrected number of deaths, derived from the mean mortality for the ten corresponding weeks in the preceding ten years, is 1272; and this number, compared with this week's return, shows a decrease in the latter of 330 deaths. The state of the public health may, therefore, be considered as remarkably good. Last week the births of 880 boys and 846 girls, in all 1726 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number was 1530. A triple birth (two girls and one boy) is recorded.—*Registrar-General's Return*.

TWO EXTENSIVE BURGLARIES IN THE CITY.—On Tuesday morning the City police gave information of two burglaries. The first was at Mr. Charles Psaurati's, silk plush manufacturer, No. 15, Bow-lane, Cheapside, and within a very few yards of Bow-lane Police Station-house, when the thieves carried away Bank notes, and a variety of other articles. It is rather surprising that the thieves were not detected, as the police pass the house every ten minutes. The second burglary was committed at Mr. Dufon's, woollen-factor, Goldsmith-street, near the General Post-office, when upwards of thirty pieces of cashmere cloth and other property was carried away.



HANGO TROPHIES AT WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

veloped in warm cloaks. I tell them that I am an English Bey who has lost his road, and I promise to reward them handsomely if they can help me. "Gidekh Bakakh! let us go to see!" exclaims Mollah Hussein, the first speaker; "I know the road well. Come along; Inshallah! I will set you right;" once more we turn, and again face the terrible mountain. We have of course to encounter the killing snow-drifts, but I observe that the Kurd takes quite another road, thus proving that we should assuredly have been lost had we followed our first guide. We at last reach the highest plateau of the mountain; our horses are staggering; each man has been rolling over and over in gullies, and dragging his horse through drifts during the last three hours; we none of us have much strength left, but we all feel it is truly a battle for life. We then come to the worst drift of all: it is a valley in which the snow has accumulated. A perfect hurricane arises, blinding man and horse, and teaching us too well the meaning of the word *tépés*—a word which freezes travellers with horror, since every winter hundreds of people are lost in these *tépés*, or snowstorms.

I am scarce able to fight my way through this horrible gulf, and have still more difficulty in saving my horse, which lies helpless on his back, having ceased for a time even to struggle. My left hand and left cheek are dead, apparently; and I sink down gasping and exhausted in the snow by the side of my faithful steed, who has given up the game as lost. A little reflection, and a little recovered breath, however, teach me that life is worth one more effort. At last I rise, and myself and horse are fairly landed on the opposite bank, which, being swept by a fierce wind, is almost bare of snow; and here I lie down again. In five minutes, however, I scramble into my saddle, and turn to look at my followers. My own servant Ismael has escaped, and is standing at my

side. He reports that all my baggage is lost, and that one of my horses is perfectly helpless. Some of the other people are still struggling in the snow, but Khurshid Effendi is fairly buried in the drift, and has lost all power of saving himself; he raises his arms like a drowning man, and cries feebly "aman, aman" (mercy, mercy). Mehemed, a muleteer, asks permission to try and recover one of the loads, but I tell him to look first to Khurshid Effendi. A stout soldier now rushes forward, and by immense efforts drags the poor man out of the snow, more dead than alive. I direct some men to tie him on the pack-saddle of a horse, which had been saved at the expense of its load. Khurshid's own horse has strayed down the mountain, and is irrecoverable.

We now reassemble ourselves and turn to face the most frightful hurricane. We ride on over the crest of a trackless mountain blinded by snow, and half-frozen by cold. After some time our stout Kurd, Mollah Hussein, suddenly pulls up, tells me he is lost, and asks me if he should turn, and try to find the road back again. This I know to be a matter of much greater difficulty than it would have been an hour ago. Some of the people cry out, "Go on," others, "Turn back;" but I soon silence this clamour, and tell Mollah Hussein to reflect well for five minutes, and then act for the best, as he is the only man who knows anything of the country. On this the Mollah pushes on, and we follow, hoping to escape, yet fearing that our destruction is still far from improbable. The cold is terrible, and my servant Ismael very drowsy, which disagreeable symptom I never felt. After an hour's ride we at length find landmarks; the Kurd exclaims, "Elhamduli-llah! (Praise be to God!), the road is clear;" and the words are echoed through the group, and most fervently responded to by myself. We presently reach a half-deserted village, where we light a fire and attend to poor

Khurshid Effendi, whose recovery is doubtful. We now count our party and the question arises, "Where is Hassan?" but he is nowhere to be found. "Vai, vai!" exclaims Mollah Hussein, "he has found a cold grave; it is kismet (fate), there is no help for it." Hassan was a groom of General Williams. We soon leave this village, and, continuing our descent, we reach a valley, where the snow has become rain, and the road clear. Tired and jaded we arrived at Durasskur, a Kurdish village, where we find good quarters.

#### HANGO TROPHIES AT WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

On the occasion of the last visit of her Majesty's ship *Blenheim* to Hango, Captain Hall, C.B., with the gun-boats *Snap*, *Stork*, and *Lark*, under his orders, landed in the ship's boat, and brought away various mementoes in the shape of cannon and mortars, a Russian sentry-box, &c., which we have engraved, as memorials of the war. The cannon, consisting of nine large and four smaller guns, had been sunk by the Russians in about three fathoms and a half of water, when the fort was dismantled in the previous year. They were very quietly and safely recovered by a boat's crew from the *Blenheim*. A body of Russian troops on shore looked on during the operation, but were kept from interfering by a wholesome fear of the *Blenheim's* guns. The sentry-box is painted in alternate stripes of black and white—having, of course, the Imperial eagle over the door. Its ultimate destination is the residence of Sir James Matthiessen, in Sussex. At present it may be seen at Woolwich Arsenal, among the Crimean trophies, in the Dial-square.



SNOWSTORM IN ARMENIA.—DR. SANDWITH AND HIS PARTY CROSSING THE ALLAH-ABBAR MOUNTAIN, ON THEIR WAY TO KARS.



WORONZOFF, OR LITTLE KAMIESCH.—FROM A SKETCH BY J. A. CROWE.—(SEE PAGE 166.)

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Feb. 10.—Quadragesima, 1st Sunday in Lent.  
 MONDAY, 11.—Washington born, 1723. Shenstone died, 1763.  
 TUESDAY, 12.—Lady Jane Grey and her husband beheaded, 1554.  
 WEDNESDAY, 13.—Ember Week. Massacre of Glencoe, 1691.  
 THURSDAY, 14.—St. Valentine. Captain Cook killed, 1779.  
 FRIDAY, 15.—National Debt commenced, 1500.  
 SATURDAY, 16.—Philip Melancthon born, 1497.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 16, 1856.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
4 50	5 10	5 35	5 55	6 15	6 33	6 55
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
7 20	7 10	8 15	8 55	9 40	10 25	11 10

LIST OF ENGRAVINGS  
IN THIS WEEK'S "ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS."

The Hon. East India Company's Banquet at the London Tavern to Lieutenant-General Patrick Grant, C.B., the new Commander-in-Chief of Madras	page 145
Hango Trophies at Woolwich Arsenal	148
Snowstorm in Armenia.—Dr. Sandwith and his Party crossing the Allah-Akbar Mountain, on their way to Kars	148
Woronzo, or Little Kamiesch.—From a Sketch by J. A. Crowe	149
The New Picture for the National Gallery—"The Adoration of the Magi." Painted by Paul Veronese	152
The Royal British and North American Mail-packet Company's New Steamship <i>Persia</i>	153
Reception of Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons at Christchurch	156
Navigation of the Elbe.—The Steamer <i>Pollux</i> Cutting through the Ice at Altona	156
Mr. W. S. Woodin's Entertainment, "The Olio of Oddities."—Scene, "The Lakes"	157
Paris Fashions for February	157
Aconite (Aconitum Napellus), Monkshood, or Wolfsbane	157
A Paper Hunt—The Find—before Sebastopol.—Sketched by J. A. Crowe	160
Winter in Norway—From a Picture by Adolphe Tidemand	161
Lawford Hall, the Seat of Sir Theodosius Boughton (1780)	162
Mementoes of Sir Francis Drake	163
The Remains of his Highness the Prince de Schinas lying in State, at Spa	164
Grand Military Steeplechase in the Crimea	164
Portrait of Lieutenant-General Liprandi	165
Tchorgoun, on the Tchernaya	165
Mr. Abraham's New Omnibus "The Cosy"	167

\*\* We are informed by several correspondents at Bristol that the Post-office authorities of that city made a charge of three shillings postage for every copy of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of Saturday last addressed to our subscribers in that neighbourhood. We are given to understand that the Bristol officials acted on their own authority in this matter. We have memorialised the Post-office on the subject, and remonstrated against what we consider to be a gross and unwarranted exaction on our subscribers, and injustice to ourselves, but have received no answer in time for our publication of this day. Next week we shall, doubtless, have more to say upon the subject.

ALPHA, near Taunton, is requested to favour us with his full address.

## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1856.

It is expected that in a fortnight from this day the Conferences of Paris will be formally opened. If the adhesion of Russia to the terms proposed by Austria, and approved by Great Britain and France, be as "pure and simple" as represented, the work to be performed by this illustrious assembly will be "simple" also. Yet we cannot but suspect, however complete may be the agreement between the European Powers as to the Four Points which relate more particularly to the Turkish part of the question, that long debates, if not differences, will arise on the vague Fifth Point. That point may include stipulations to which Russia may not feel bound to accede. It has been purposely left elastic; and may comprise more or less, as Russia shows herself to be more or less sincerely desirous to keep the peace of Europe. The treaty concluded between Great Britain and France on the one side, and Sweden and Norway on the other, binds the Allies to insist that Bomarsund shall never be rebuilt as fortress or arsenal,—in either of which characters it could serve no purposes but those of aggression. Russia had no necessity for such an arsenal, in such a position; and if she insist upon rebuilding it, or forming any other within the same proximity to Sweden, the Allies will be justified in interpreting her desire in a sense adverse to the independence of Sweden, and as a menace to Europe. The Allies, it appears, have tacitly, or perhaps more authoritatively, allowed Russia to understand that no demand will be made upon her for the expenses to which she has put them in resisting her unjust aggression; but, if such nations as Great Britain and France can afford to be generous towards a foe who throws herself upon their merciful consideration, it still remains a question whether they will do justice to Turkey if they do not insist that she at least shall be repaid for the enormous outlay she has been obliged to incur, and for the barbarous and treacherous destruction of her fleet at Sinope. It does not meet the justice of the case to allege that Russia is too impoverished and exhausted by the war to be able to pay an indemnity. We do not believe in the permanent exhaustion of a great nation. If Russia cannot pay now, she may pledge herself to pay at some future day. She may, in commercial phrase, give her bills, not at two or three months', but at two or three years', date; and Turkey will no doubt be glad to grant her the time and the accommodation requisite.

Whatever may be thought in Prussia, or even in Austria, of such a proposal, we do not think there are many men in France or England, unless they be Greeks of Manchester or Liverpool, who would think that a hard measure was thus meted out to a gross offender, or that unnecessary or impolitic humiliation was inflicted. Russia would neither be ruined nor very seriously incommoded by being compelled to pay to Turkey the sum of ten or twenty millions sterling. At the close of the war in 1815 France was forced to pay upwards of £60,000,000 as indemnity; and, moreover, to maintain an army of occupation of 150,000 men for three years after the peace. And yet France was not ruined by this severity of exaction, but, on the contrary, gained strength from the efforts that were rendered necessary to meet it. And why should a different measure be dealt out to Russia? A pecuniary fine of this amount would not only be an act of pure justice to Turkey, but would in all probability tend to the development of the industrial and commercial resources of Russia herself, and prove to the present and to future

Czars how much wiser, safer, and more profitable it is to grow wealthy by the sure arts of peace than by insecure conquests or continual warfare and aggression against her neighbours.

COULD we believe that Parliament would act through the Session as wisely as at its commencement, its proceedings, as far as yet known, would be most hopeful. Several bills of a very valuable character have been introduced by the Government; and though the representatives of "local interests" have protested on behalf of monopoly, and the lawyers have opposed legal reform, the House of Commons has received the measures in a fitting spirit. When these bills come to be discussed on their principle, will be the time to notice the character and motives of the treatment they experience; but it may be well to enumerate them. On Friday week Mr. Lowe brought in two bills—one to amend the Law of Partnership, the other for the incorporation and regulation of Joint-stock Companies. On Monday the same member of the Government brought in a bill for the abolition of Passing Tolls on Shipping; and the Solicitor-General for Ireland introduced a bill for Abolishing the Encumbered Estates Court, and for Improving the Irish Court of Chancery. Some important commercial and domestic measures for Scotland were brought forward by Lord Duncan. And on Tuesday the Home Secretary brought in a bill for providing an efficient County and Borough Police for England. Not one of these measures but is entitled to the name of a reform; and such of them as have a commercial and financial bearing appear to be based on sound principles of political economy. We are also promised an Ecclesiastical Courts Reform, in which we shall believe when *la Reine le veut* is pronounced over it, and not before. Sir George Grey declines to give the magistrates new powers in the case of wife-beating, stating, with the authority of an omniscient Whig official, that no law will put a stop to the practice. There has been nothing of any great interest as yet brought forward in the House of Lords, except that a bill (evidently the result of the recent application in Palmer's case) has been introduced for enabling the Queen's Bench at once to send a case for trial to the Central Criminal Court, instead of the expensive and inconvenient trial "at bar." This useful measure is mainly due to Mr. Huddleston's able opposition to the motion in Palmer's case, and to the array of reasons he assigned why the course proposed was objectionable. We must add that another bill has been introduced with the harmless title of the Leases and Sales of Settled Estates Bill; but the significant name of Sir T. M. Wilson is connected with it, and those who love Hampstead-heath will require no other admonition to be on the alert.

THE finances of the State, whether we have peace or continue at war, will necessarily occupy much of the attention of Parliament during the present Session. Already several important questions have been asked on the subject, and some movements are noticeable amongst the people. We all feel, in fact, the influence of taxation: it makes comparative scarcity. The hand of the Government is in the sugar-basin and the tea-caddy. It lessens the income of every man, except, perhaps, that of domestic servants. It puts a check on marriage, the proportion of which to the population was less in 1855 than in any year since 1849. Through it we all suffer irksome restraint, and all are anxious to make the burden as light as possible—to shift it from ourselves to others, or to get rid of it altogether. Without taxation, however, the nation can have no Government; and, accordingly, the great political problem that politicians are always trying to solve is how to secure the most efficient Government with the least taxation?

We have for a long period taken a deep interest in this subject, and on June 16th last year we published a paper on "Administrative Reform—The Remedial Measure," in which we pointed out that the most important duty which the House of Commons has to perform—"the control of the finances"—"the basis of all administration"—is actually left by the House "to be performed by the Ministers and their clerks;" and in which we suggested that, at the beginning of every Session, the House should "appoint a Financial Committee," and should "vote no money whatever" till the public expenditure and the estimates had been examined by this Committee. We can, therefore, applaud that watchful body, the Liverpool Financial Reform Association, for having taken up the same idea, and for using its funds and its influence to urge the members of the Legislature to exert themselves to secure the appointment every Session of such a Committee. In a circular, dated January 19th, which has just fallen into our hands, it solicits attention to two tracts—one "recently published" by it, the other now in the press—which have for their object exclusively to promote this necessary step to reach anything like good husbandry in the national finances.

In its tract already published the Association recommends, as we recommended in June, that the House of Commons, without waiting for Parliamentary Reform, should at once "appoint a permanent Finance Committee, composed of men of practical business habits, with power to appoint and employ experienced accountants, and to summon before it all persons from whom necessary information might be required." The Association refers to Town-councils, Boards of Guardians, Parish Vestries, and other similar bodies intrusted with the administration of public funds, all of which find it necessary to appoint financial committees to supervise their monetary affairs, while the House of Commons intrusts both the imposition of taxes and the distribution of the proceeds to paid functionaries, over whom it exercises merely a nominal control. The Association elaborates the idea through the two tracts, and concludes the last by this adjuration to the Financial Reformers already in the House of Commons:—

Let them insist that the House, in addition to the bodies to whom it deputes a portion of its powers advantageously, for purposes infinitely less important, shall also have a standing Finance Committee invested with all the powers necessary to make it an efficient check on the Government itself, and also on its subordinate functionaries, to whom the spending of the public money is really intrusted. If they succeed in this endeavour, and an efficient Finance Committee be appointed, they will have rendered a service to the nation of which the value and importance can hardly be overrated. If they be opposed (as they will be by all who flourish, or hope to flourish, under the present system, and who laugh at the shallow farce of existing Parliamentary control), and if they fail in their first attempt (as they probably may), they will, at all events, have discharged their own consciences from any complicity in systematic waste; and they will also have had an opportunity of demonstrating to the constituencies the necessity of demanding at least one pledge from Parlia-

mentary candidates at the next general election—viz., that they will advocate and vote for the appointment of a permanent Finance Committee of the House of Commons, and never desist from demanding it until that restraint upon Government extravagance is obtained.

The Association, therefore, would convert the recommendation to have a Finance Committee into a test for candidates, and make them pledge themselves to procure the appointment of such a committee. We cordially support its views. We believe now, as we stated eight months ago, that "a financial reform must be the basis of all other reforms," "not to stint the public service, but to make it efficient." We require not "penny-wise and pound-foolish" economy, but a judicious and carefully-framed system of finance. It is practicable, we are sure, to have such a system, which should provide liberally for every essential public service, and at the same time lighten the burdens on industry. A committee of a few resolute clever men would soon find out a means of simplifying our taxation, reducing it to one or two heads, and collecting it at a very small expense by means of the banks which have grown up naturally in society, and only require freedom, with a judicious law of partnership, to become universal. Politicians cannot better employ their energies in peace than in making preparations for war; and every nation has learned from experience that all other preparations are utterly insignificant compared to a skilfully-devised system of finance which husbands the national resources, and provides the means of maintaining armies and navies. Such a system would place at the disposal of an enlightened and popular Government the largest portion it can require of the vast resources of the nation, with the least degree of suffering and injury to a patriotic people. The Executive Government owes such a system to the people. It is bound to provide for the national safety and the national honour at the smallest cost; and it should not wait for the action of associations and the victories of reforming members of the House of Commons to appoint a standing Finance Committee. It should take the initiative on itself, and make the appointment of such a Committee one of the chief means of providing effectually for the means of future defence.

## THE COURT.

The Queen has given audiences respectively to Earl Spencer, Lord Steward, and Viscount Drumlanrig, Comptroller of the Household, intrusted with the presentation of the Lords' and Commons' Addresses in answer to her Majesty's Speech from the throne.

The first note of preparation for the coming season is the announcement, on authority, of three levees, to be held by her Majesty at St. James's Palace, on the following days:—Wednesday, the 20th inst.; Wednesday, the 27th inst.; Wednesday, the 12th of March next.

The Court will arrive at Buckingham Palace from Windsor Castle on Monday next.

The only guests of note at the Royal table during the week have been Captain the Hon. H. Keppel, R.N., and Colonel Simmons, R.E., the Queen's Commissioners at the Head-quarters of the Ottoman army.

On Tuesday her Majesty and Prince Albert and the Royal family passed the evening at Frogmore House, where her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent gave a children's ball.

The Hon. Beatrice Byng and the Hon. Mary Bulte have succeeded the Hon. Mary Seymour and the Hon. Emily Cathcart, as Maids of Honour in Waiting. Major-General Bouvier and Captain Du Plat have succeeded Lord Charles Fitzroy and Colonel F. H. Seymour, as Equestris in Waiting to the Queen and Prince.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge had a dinner party on Saturday evening, at his Royal Highness's residence at St. James's Palace. Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and Princess Mary were among the guests.

The Countess Persigny, wife of the Ambassador of France, had a *thé dansant* on Tuesday evening, at Albert-gate House, which was very fashionably attended.

Earl Fitzwilliam has, we regret to learn, been suffering from severe illness, with which he was seized on Saturday last.

Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston had a dinner and evening party on Saturday last, at their mansion on Piccadilly-terrace.

## CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &amp;c.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Rectories*: The Rev. H. C. Glaville to Shevrocke, Cornwall; the Rev. E. E. Wilmot to All Souls', Marylebone; the Rev. W. G. Holmes to Little Hampton, Sussex; the Rev. J. Griffith to Neath-with-Llanrwst, Glamorganshire; the Rev. J. Holley to St. Bartons Andrew, near Stoke Ferry, Norfolk; the Rev. J. Nesbit to Deal, Kent. *Vicarages*: The Rev. J. W. Holdsworth to Linton, near Staplehurst; the Rev. J. Bates to St. Giles's, Colchester, and to the Second Mastership of the Royal Grammar School of that town; the Rev. J. Hillier to Cardington, near Bedford; the Rev. G. T. Sharland, to Hyde, Devonshire; the Rev. W. F. Bickmore, to Kenilworth, Warwickshire. *Incumbency*: The Rev. J. H. Thompson to Cradley, near Stourbridge.

The ceremony of consecrating St. Albans Church, the erection of which has recently been completed, at Pinfold, Rochdale, was performed on Saturday last, by the Lord Bishop of Manchester. The total cost of the erection has been between £4000 and £5000.

ERRATUM.—In our notice of a Testimonial presented to the Rev. Daniel Butler it should have been stated that he had officiated ten years (not fifteen) at St. John's Chapel, St. John's Wood.

TESTIMONIAL TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE MR. JOSEPH HUME.—Last Saturday afternoon a preliminary meeting of noblemen and gentlemen interested in the proposed public testimonial to be erected, in the shape of a colossal monument or statue, to the memory of Mr. Joseph Hume, M.P., met at Willis's Rooms, King street, St. James's, for the purpose of considering the best means of carrying out that object. The Right Hon. Earl Fortescue occupied the chair. The company present included the Earl of Bessborough, Lord Broughton, Lord Hertford, Lord Panmure, Lord Stanley of Alderley, Lord Ebrington, M.P.; Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P.; Sir B. Hall, Bart., M.P.; the Right Hon. T. F. Kennedy, the Hon. F. Byng, Sir James Duke, M.P.; Sir Joshua Walmsley, M.P.; Mr. Frotheron, M.P.; Mr. Duncan, M.P.; Mr. Gore Langton, M.P.; Mr. Gregson, M.P.; Mr. Walter Milnes, M.P.; Mr. Thorneby, M.P.; Mr. Williams, M.P.; Colonel Romilly, Mr. Nicholay, Mr. John Wood, and Mr. Thomas Wall, secretary to the Working Men's Association. After some discussion the Right Hon. Lord Panmure moved—"That a general meeting of the friends and supporters of the late Mr. J. Hume, M.P., be called at Willis's Rooms, on Saturday, the 16th inst., at one o'clock p.m. precisely, for the purpose of considering the erection of a monument to the memory of Mr. Hume" (Applause). The Right Hon. Lord Grosvenor, M.P., seconded the motion amidst renewed acclamations, and it was carried *en masse*. A strong committee was then formed, empowering the above noblemen and gentlemen to take the necessary steps for promoting the object of the meeting, and the proceedings closed with a warm vote of thanks to the chairman, who complied with the request made that he should preside at the demonstration on Saturday next.

WE are requested by Mr. Carmichael to correct a mistake made in the title of the illustration, "Sunday Morning Prayers," which appeared in our last week's impression, ought to have been the "Daily Morning Prayers" on board H.M.S. the *Blenheim*. The people of England and the world ought to know (adds our Artist) that British sailors attend prayers every day in the week.

CAMBRIDGE ASYLUM FOR WIDOWS OF BRITISH SOLDIERS.—A Correspondent informs us that this excellent establishment, for the benefit of which the concert described in our last Number was given by the Amateur Musical Society, originated with the Committee for erecting a Monument to the late Duke of Cambridge. The fund raised not having been sufficient to accomplish the original design, it was resolved that the money should be devoted to the establishment of a charitable institution; and a plan of an Asylum for the Widows of Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers of the British Army having been submitted to the Committee by one of its members (Mr. Charrer, of the Commissariat) was approved by the subscribers. The building at Kingston, now being erected on a site liberally granted by the present Duke of Cambridge, already affords accommodation to twenty-one widows of deserving veterans, and the number will be progressively increased.

The duty on railways in the year ended the 31st March last amounted to £309,195.

## TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &amp;c.

THE amount of the purchase-money of the new acquisition to the National Gallery, the "Adoration of the Magi," has just transpired. Sir C. Eastlake, Director of the Gallery, gave for it £1977. It was bought through Signor Angelo Toffoli, of Venice. We may add, as a piece of artistic gossip, that Sir Charles travelled into Italy with powers from the treasury to draw on the paymaster-general for £3000 for purchases. He has returned (like a careful caterer as he is) with money in hand—ready in the spring, if necessary, to run anywhere to secure a really first-rate picture for the National Gallery.

Our great Indian antiquary, Lieut.-Colonel Rawlinson (better known as Major Rawlinson), is among the recent promotions in the Order of the Bath. He is now a K.C.B., and, consequently, Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson. This well-merited honour will be received everywhere as a just tribute to a scholar, a diplomatist, and a soldier.

The new Burford Panorama for the spring will be the "Interior of Sebastopol." Who has forgotten the exquisite view of the exterior of the far-famed city—one of the leading attractions of the last London season?

So very little is known of a truly English painter, Thomas Gainsborough, that we are glad to observe an advertisement from Mr. Fulcher, of Sudbury, asking assistance towards a new and enlarged life of the great painter. As Gainsborough was a Sudbury man himself, Mr. Fulcher has doubtless all the local traditions about him. He asks for letters. There is not a rarer autograph than that of Gainsborough. Bath, where Gainsborough lived so long, should be well hunted up for materials; and Mr. Fulcher should give us a careful catalogue of his works—arranged under these headings:—1, Subject; 2, When painted; 3, Where exhibited; 4, For whom painted; 5, Size; 6, Canvas or panel; 7, Price paid to the painter; 8, Price for which it has since sold; 9, Present possessor; 10, Engraver and date of Engraving.

Our friend Sylvanus Urban has printed a letter from the Rev. John Mitford to himself about Rogers the poet. Sylvanus has been properly anxious to obtain full and faithful particulars of "the poet's life, and, hearing (we know not whence) that the late Mr. Samuel Phillips had been requested by the poet to write his life, he naturally asks of the poet's old and much-valued friend, Mr. Mitford, "Was this the case?" Mr. Mitford replies that he does not believe that any such request was made by Mr. Rogers. To which we will add, that Mr. Phillips never saw Mr. Rogers above half-a-dozen times in his life, that their knowledge of one another never amounted to intimacy, and that the story has its origin in a piece of gossip current in Mr. Rogers's lifetime. Mr. Phillips, it was said, had written a memoir of Mr. Rogers for a daily newspaper, and that the memoir was in type and ready to be inserted the moment the venerable poet died. The able biographer, unfortunately for his friends and the public, died in the prime of life, before the subject of his biography. As for the request from the poet, the whole story is "fudge."

Collectors and dealers conversant with the value of works of art, and of curious things, such as Horace Walpole and Mr. Bernal loved to collect, are speculating respecting the amount that the Rogers collection is likely to realise. Everything will be sold, and the probate is sworn under £40,000. "Too small a sum!" exclaims a sagacious observer, "I know the collection well. The executors, you will see, will have to take out a fresh probate for £15,000 additional."

There is a pleasant rumour which we trust is true. Her Majesty, it is said, has granted a pension of £100 a year to Samuel Lover—poet, musician, novelist, and painter, and clever in all. Some of Mr. Lover's songs will live as long as the language they adorn. His "Angels' whisper," his "Rory O'More," and some twenty others, form that neat pyramid of white marble which Cowley was so solicitous to see erected to his own memory.

The acknowledged insecurity of gummed envelopes to letters has given an impetus to the suffering sealing-wax trade. There are people who profess to see the revival of the old graceful practice of attaching seals and silk to a letter—those pretty appendages which so much please the collectors of autographs. We have seen some graceful specimens of the kind transmitted by post since Dr. Taylor's exposure of the Rugeley postmaster—Occasional correspondents, and men whose time is their own, may indulge in the tasteful trappings of seals and silk; but the labour is too great for prolific correspondents like Joseph Ady and men of real business transactions.

Saturday, the 1st of March, is to witness the revival of our old friend the *Literary Gazette*—now, if we remember rightly, fast approaching his fortieth year of public instruction. We are to have (so runs the talk) at least a brace of editors, and certainly a woodcut, in the manner and style of our friend the *Builder*. Then we are to have "Notes and Queries," and other attractions to "hook the reader;" and if done well, as we trust they will, be hook him among constant subscribers.

Leicestershire has awakened to the public value of the "Roach Smith Museum," and has shown its ardour in the cause by a public petition to the Lords of the Treasury for its purchase at the reduced price of £2500. Lords Howe and Ferrers lead off the petition. We have on other occasions recommended the purchase of this museum, so we shall now content ourselves by this simple record of what is doing in the matter.

Complaints are made, and with justice, of the vile rough treatment which books of value receive from some of the rough readers (we had nearly written riders) who frequent and pester the Reading-room of the British Museum. There are men who think that national property is not to be treated like other property. They tear, dog's-ear, and dirt some of the best books which the nation possesses. Mr. Panizzi's binders cannot keep pace with the mob who dirt books with ease. What cure can be suggested? A correspondent (certainly not an ill-natured one) half hints to us that a compulsory probationary process of soap and water (at the expense of the nation) would prove a national saving. An immediate withdrawal of the national privilege of reading in a national library would, this failing, be another course of cure which we would immediately recommend.

**METEOR.**—(From a Correspondent.)—The following is an account of a meteor which I witnessed from Foot's Cray, Kent, in the evening of Sunday last, February 3rd, 1856, about 7.53, in the south-east:—It first attracted my notice as a large star, increasing in brightness, and with a somewhat tremulous movement, and at an altitude of about 20°. In a few seconds it spread out into a mass of orange-coloured fire, in an oval form, probably the size of five or six full-moons long, and two broad; it then began to descend obliquely, at an angle of about 60°, towards the east. In a short time it changed instantly to a brilliant green, then again to an equally brilliant red; but throughout it was tinted around the edges with orange, and the head did not change in colour. On its arrival at the point at which it was hid from my view by a hill an apparent explosion took place, lighting up the country like day, but unaccompanied by any noise: altogether it lasted about twenty seconds. I can only compare it to a magnificent rocket, apparently about half a mile distant, illuminating the country with its varying colours with beautiful effect. The night was bright and starlight, with 13° of frost.—V. SKINNER.—(From a Correspondent at Burbage, Marlborough)—Being out for a walk on Sunday evening, the 3rd inst., about eight o'clock, wind nearly due east, stars shining brightly, with frosty air, my attention was arrested by a vivid flash of light, illumining the whole firmament; and, turning suddenly to the east, I saw a magnificent meteor, quite as large as the one described in your columns a few weeks since. The size was about that of the full moon, when near the zenith; the time of its duration two or three seconds. The globular portion was of a bright copper colour—the tail of a paler hue, and forming a cone twice the diameter of the body itself. The position, E.S.E.; its elevation 9 or 10 degrees above the horizon; its direction an acute angle with the same, eastward; its motion apparently intermittent; at each plunge, as it might be termed, the flashes were produced, seemingly without explosion, and were thrice repeated, revealing a line of clouds on the horizon, beneath which it disappeared; the distance traversed at each progression about twice the length of the body and tail. It was witnessed by many persons in this neighbourhood.—E. NEW.

The Government of Victoria have acquiesced in a proposal emanating from the Government of New South Wales, that all frontier customs-houses between these two colonies shall be abolished, and henceforth duties will be collected only on the seaboard.

## COUNTRY NEWS.

## METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE HIGHFIELD HOUSE OBSERVATORY, NEAR NOTTINGHAM, FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 5, 1856

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M. 181 feet above sea level.	Thermometer.		Mean Tem- pera- ture of the Day.	Rain in Inches.	Mean Temp- erature of Wet Bulb.	Evapo- ration.	Amount of Ozone (0-10)	Mean amount of Cloud (0-10)
		Highest Reading	Lowest Reading						
Jan. 30	29.666	29.0	20.1	30.4	0.000	30.4	29.3	2	0
Feb. 1	29.987	38.7	25.1	32.1	0.000	30.9	30.5	1	1
2	30.026	37.0	21.9	30.5	0.000	30.9	29.5	2	1
3	29.847	34.7	24.4	30.3	0.000	29.8	28.6	4	0
4	29.944	38.7	25.0	31.4	0.000	30.8	30.9	1	0
5	29.829	39.2	30.0	35.6	0.020	35.6	34.3	7	0
Mean	29.889	39.2	25.7	32.9	0.032	32.5	38.7	4.1	1.4
									5.2

The range of temperature during the week was 13.5°.

The weather frosty till the 4th, rain on the evening of the 4th.

The direction of the wind was—31st, W., became N.W. at 2h. 30m. a.m. N.W. 11 1/2 a.m., N. at 2 1/2 p.m.; moved to W.N.W. at 12h. 30m. a.m. Feb. 1st, and at 6 a.m. to W.; in which quarter it remained till 8 a.m. of 3rd, when it moved through S. to E.S.E., 1 p.m. became S.S.E.; and at 5 a.m. of 4th S. at 11 1/2 a.m. S.S.W., and at 11 1/2 p.m. W.S.W.; became S.W. at 11 1/2 a.m. of 5th, and S.S.W. at 4h. 45m. p.m.; in which quarter it remained, and blowing a gale from 7 p.m. of 5th.

Large meteor on the 3rd, at 7h. 55m. p.m.

E. J. LOWE.

**THE TOWN DUES OF LIVERPOOL.**—The bill introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Lowe, on Monday night, for the relief of the mercantile shipping from local tolls and dues is by no means popular in Liverpool, the prevailing belief being that the Corporation of that town have a right and title to those dues beyond dispute. The right of the Corporation was tried before Lord Chief Justice Denman, in 1833, on which occasion the decision was in their favour. The gross revenue of the Corporation of Liverpool for the year ending August the 31st, 1855, was £176,807; of which £110,671 were received from town-dues, and to maintain the present expenditure of the Corporation (should the town-dues be abolished) a borough-rate of £78,000 will be required.

**REPRESENTATION OF TAUNTON.**—The election for this borough, rendered necessary by the appointment of the Right Hon. Henry Labouchere to the office of Colonial Secretary, vacant by the death of Sir William Molesworth, took place on Tuesday, when Mr. Labouchere was returned without opposition. In his speech to the electors he said, "The war with Russia had not been owing merely to her aggression upon Turkey, but because she was engaged in prosecuting a systematic attack upon the liberties of all Europe, which, if it had not been met by a firm and determined resistance, would have produced a state of things utterly inconsistent with the freedom of the habitable world (Hear, hear). It was this feeling which had induced us to take a part in the conflict, suitable to our old renown and to the high station which England occupied. Now we were engaged in negotiations for peace, and he for one heartily prayed that those negotiations might be successful. To prolong a war unnecessarily—he would not say for one year, but for one hour—was not only a national error, but a national crime; and, therefore, he should rejoice if those negotiations should lead to peace—that was to say, to such a peace, and only such a peace, as the British nation expected the Government would agree to—a peace such as would afford the prospect of its being durable because it was honourable."

**REPRESENTATION OF NEWCASTLE.**—The election of a member for the borough of Newcastle-on-Tyne took place on Tuesday last, when Mr. George Ridley was elected without opposition. A Mr. Richard Hort was brought forward by the Urquhart party; but the encouragement he received was not sufficient to make his friends support him in a contest.

**LEEDS ELECTION.**—On Wednesday last the Right Hon. M. T. Baines, who had vacated his seat on accepting the office of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, was re-elected for Leeds without opposition.

**MR. BRIGHT ON THE AMERICAN QUARREL.**—At the annual meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, on Monday last, Mr. Bright, M.P., made a long speech on our relations with America. As regarded the question about Central America he did not see that England was in the wrong; but, let that be as it may, it was clear that the United States would obtain possession of that country. As to the difficulties arising out of the Foreign Enlistment Bill, they were only what had been predicted when that measure was proposed. He did not think our Government had made a sufficient apology to the United States Government for the blunder they had made. A resolution was passed by the Chamber expressing regret that such difficulties had occurred, and urging upon our Government the propriety of considering the questions at issue in a conciliatory spirit.

**WHAT NEXT? AND WHO NEXT?**—Last night was the annual election for honorary officers of the Manchester Atheneum. The election by ballot; and at least four fifths of the members who voted (and hundreds did so) have votes for Manchester. Mr. Richard Cobden was proposed and seconded as one of the vice-presidents, and he was blackballed! What a change! But two or three short years ago, and he would have been elected with acclamations. Such circumstances as these, rather than packed meetings, got up with all the influence of the League to back them (and those resident in Manchester know what that influence is), show in what estimation the Peace-at-any-price party is held in Manchester.—*Manchester Guardian*, Feb. 2.

**THE WILL FORGERY AND POISONING AT MANCHESTER.**—James Monaghan, George Barry, and Edmund Dunn, now in custody on a charge of administering poison to the late John Monaghan, in August last, were brought before the magistrates at Manchester on Tuesday last, under a writ of *habeas corpus*, granted by Mr. Justice Erle on Saturday, charged with forging a will of the said John Monaghan three weeks subsequently to his death. From the evidence given it appeared that on August 3rd, 1855, a will had been made at John Monaghan's dictation, in which he bequeathed the sum of £10 16s. sterling, the sum due on a policy of the Wellington Reversionary Annuity and Life Assurance Society, to pay his debts and all claims after his decease. The forged will was a copy of the original, with this difference, that in it he was made to bequeath to his son James £300 due at his death on a policy from the Diadem Insurance Company. From what was stated on a previous examination it appeared that the old man was not aware of his life having been insured in the Diadem Company for £300. That had been done by his son James and other parties, apparently for their own ends. James Monaghan, Edmund Dunn, and two other men named Keefe and M'Loughlin, were committed for trial at next assizes, on the charge of forgery.

**THE RECENT CHARGE OF PASSING FORGED CHEQUES.**—The *Cambridge Chronicle* contains the following particulars respecting George Patman, who was charged a few days ago in the Guildhall police court with passing forged cheques to a large amount:—Patman came to Cambridge about twelve months ago. He took lodgings in the house of a lady in New-square, and, conducting himself with great propriety, was in course of time introduced to several respectable families. He had previously, we should observe, made the acquaintance of some ladies connected with one of these families at Berkhamstead, in Hertfordshire, where he was residing. He was very regular in his habits, remarkably quiet, a constant attendant at church, and professed to entertain serious religious conviction. He entered Clare College last October, having previously, we understand, been reading with a member of the University. In college, as elsewhere, his outward demeanour was irreproachable. He paid his addresses to one of the ladies he had met in Hertfordshire, and prosecuted his suit with such success that in December last he was united to her. This event did not take place without the father of the lady having made due inquiries as to Patman's standing in society and means; and he was so convinced, from the representations made to him that Patman was possessed of a moderate competency, that he cheerfully gave his consent to the union. One of these representations was that an uncle had placed £4000 in the funds, the interest of which was to be his, and documents were produced in proof of these statements. These, it now turns out, were forged. Everything went on harmoniously until Friday, the 25th ult., five short weeks after his marriage, when intelligence was received in this town that Patman, who was in London transacting some business for his father-in-law, had been arrested on a charge of forgery. The news was so astounding that at first it was not credited; but it unfortunately turned out to be too true. We leave it to the imagination of our readers to picture the state of distress which such intelligence produced in the family with which he had become connected. There is apparently some mystery in the case, no adequate motives for his conduct having been discovered.

**COLLISION IN THE CHANNEL AND LOSS OF LIFE.**—On Sunday evening last a collision took place off Folkestone between the *Mangerton* screw steam-ship, from Limerick, and the *Josephine Willis*, a New Zealand packet-ship. The latter vessel, which had sailed from St. Katharine Docks on the Friday, was so injured that she went down in a few minutes. There were upwards of a hundred persons on board, including ten first-class and sixty steerage passengers. About thirty were taken on board the *Mangerton* steamer, and it is said that many more might have been saved had the Captain of that vessel made any attempt to go after the ship. A boat containing several of the crew of the *Josephine Willis* reached Folkestone at midnight.

The Spanish papers state that the inundations at Seville are so great that the Governor has been rowed through the streets in a boat, in order to convey assistance to the inhabitants.

## EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Lord Dalhousie will leave India on the 5th or 6th of March. Lord Canning is expected in Calcutta on the 26th of February.

The Queen of Spain has presented a cloak ornamented with garnets, of the value of 200,000 reals, to a statue of the Virgin of Sorrows, in one of the churches.

Captain Lord Edward Russell is appointed to be paid Aide-de-Camp, and Captain George Elliot to be Aide-de-Camp, to her Majesty.

On the 21st ult. the Pope gave his benediction to the lambs, which were to be afterwards shorn, in order to furnish wool for the pallium which Rome sends to each of the new Bishops.

Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint the Rev. George Robinson Moncrieff, M.A., to be an Inspector of Schools.

The King of Denmark has refused to receive the resolution come to by the Holstein Diet for the impeachment of M. Scheel, the Minister for that Duchy.

The youthful Lord Montgomerie is doing duty on board of her Majesty's gun-ship *Conqueror*.

In the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, on the 1st instant, the Minister of Finance presented a bill granting an annual allowance of 150,000f. to the Count de Flandre, second son of King Leopold.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has appointed the Right Hon. Spencer Horatio Walpole to be a Church Estates Commissioner, in the place of the Right Hon. Henry Goulburn, deceased.

A demand has been presented to the Congregation of Rites at Rome for the beatification of Queen Marie Christina of Naples, daughter of King Victor Emmanuel I. of Sardinia, and first wife of the reigning



THE NEW PICTURE FOR THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—"THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI"—PAINTED BY PAUL VERONESE.

THE first great purchase made by Sir Charles Eastlake, in his new office of Director of the National Gallery, is one that will give full satisfaction to the public. What little reputation Sir Charles lost as Keeper, by silently lending his name to the purchase of the supposititious Holbein, will be blotted from remembrance by this new acquisition as Director.

It has been known for some time past that Sir Charles Eastlake spent last autumn in his beloved Italy, travelling partly for his own pleasure, and partly in his paid position as Director of the National Gallery. Nay, it was privately known that he was not fettered as to funds, and that his return with a grand Gallery picture of the Italian school—even at a Christie and Manson price—was what was looked for by the Trustees, his masters. The "Travelling Agent" of the Gallery, Mr. Otto Mundler, accompanied Sir Charles.

Sir Charles returned with a prize in his landing-net—so he alleged—and so the prize has turned out. He did not risk his reputation in pursuit of early German art, which some affect to think he does not understand, but went in pursuit of a fine specimen either of Paul Veronese or Tintoret, whose genius and touch he understands so thoroughly. He returned with a Paul Veronese.

We have scarcely one good specimen in England of this great master of scenic and decorative representations of historical and sacred subjects. The largest specimen till this present in the National Gallery (a present from the Directors of the British Institution) does not represent the great painter of the "Marriage at Cana." But "The Consecration of St. Nicholas" does not render justice to the characteristic excellence of the

master—magnificence. There is nothing in it of his luxury of fancy in design and colour. The Gallery required a better specimen, and has now obtained it.

The leading examples in England of "Paulo's free stroke" till the arrival of this real accession to our treasures of art in England were the two allegorical pictures at Mr. Hope's and the four allegorical pictures (from the Orleans Gallery) at Lord Darnley's, at Cobham. These, however, while they delighted the untravelled spectator, failed to delight the critic who has seen the great Venetian in the Louvre, or in his own beloved Venice. They exhibited, it is true, this earlier Rubens in a new light, but in that light the peculiar beauties of his ornamental style were but imperfectly represented.

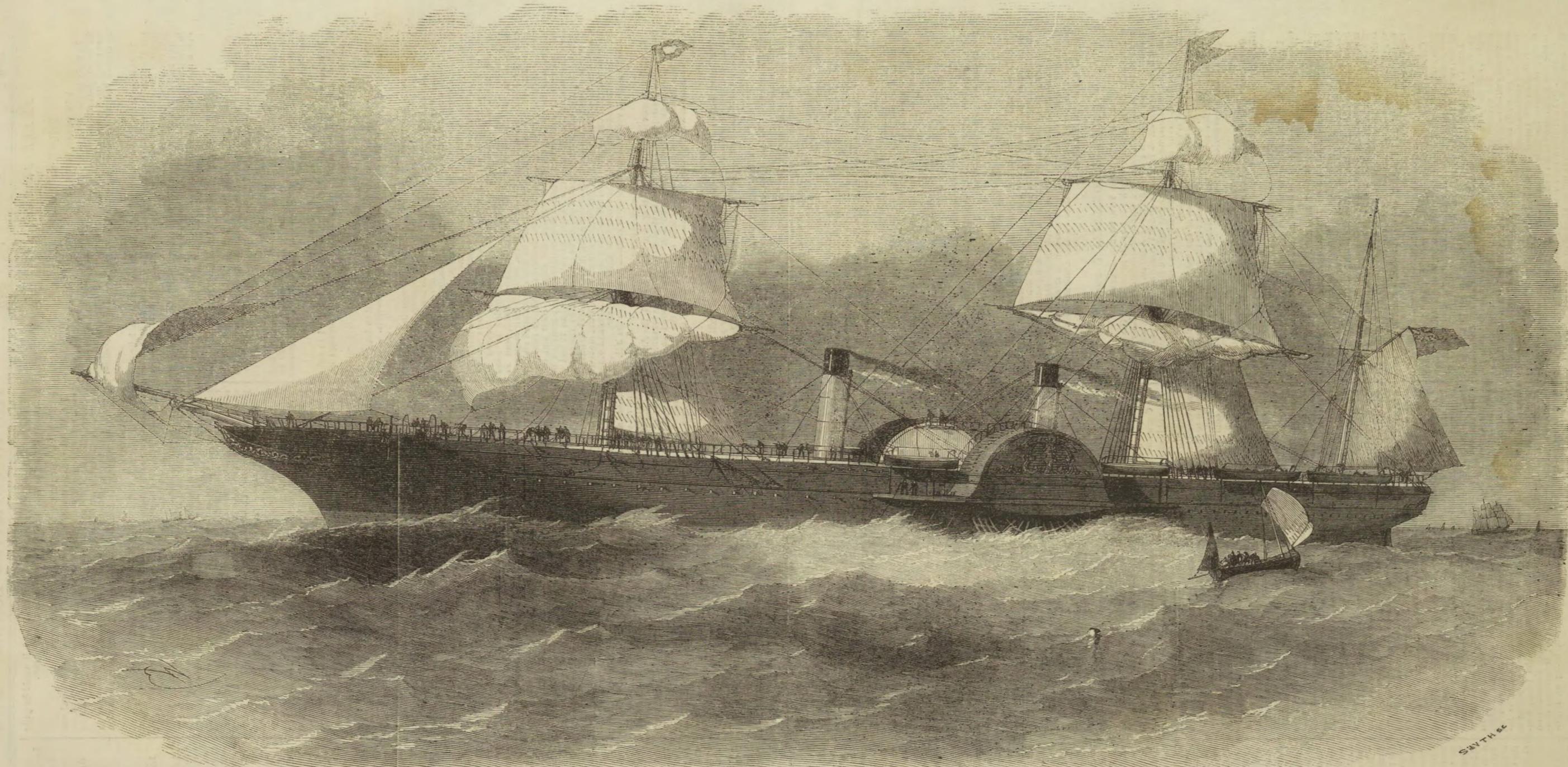
After the Hope and Darnley examples, we would mention, as amongst the best existing specimens of Veronese in England, the fine example in Mr. Rogers's collection of "Mary Magdalene Anointing the Feet of our Saviour"—a study for the picture, in the Durasco Palace at Genoa. Here the great Venetian is seen as a great colourist and largely-ornamental artist on a small scale. The large and choice example of this master which Sir Charles Eastlake has secured to the British nation is called "The Adoration of the Magi." It is a square-shaped Gallery sized picture, and occupies as large a space on the wall as the famous Sebastian del Piombo—"The Raising of Lazarus." It is the triumph of art in a man who scorns to be tied by the costume of the time, or by antiquarian proprieties. The Saviour (the new-born babe) is seen in the arms of his Virgin Mother. The Virgin herself has not much divinity of look: the

race of Virgin Mary painters had passed by the time the great Venetian began to flourish. The rude manger is lost in a Palmyra of columns and the child to whom the offering is made, in a picturesque confusion of richly-dressed men, caparisoned camels and horses, and noble dogs and gold cups. A ray of Divine light is thrown from heaven on the Divine child; and Cupids (may we call them such?) sport in thin air very picturesquely—in a style better fitted for St. Cecilia than the Saviour.

It is well known that Paul Veronese never put the really leading figures of his subject into the foreground of his pictures. In the "Marriage at Cana" the principal personages are the musicians and the menials. The Saviour is lost in a background of people present. So in the "Adoration of the Magi"—that richly-robed Venetian senator is the principal personage of the picture. Rembrandt would have made the Saviour all in all; but this did not suit the great ornamental painter of the picture under consideration. There is always a passing cloud putting into shadow the very persons who should have been in sunshine had the painter been equal to other work than that he excelled in.

This fine picture is dated MDLXXIII, when the painter was about forty-five. It was painted for the church of St. Silvestro, in Venice; is noticed by Sansovino, in his "Venetia Descritta," published in 1581, and is described by Ridolfi, Boschini, and Layetti, in terms of the highest praise. Its genealogy would satisfy the Jockey Club. Will its condition praise the carpers at the recent cleaning? We think not.

We may add that the reduced copy of the same picture, by Carlo Cagliari, at Hampton Court, has been engraved by Gribelin.



THE ROYAL BRITISH AND NORTH AMERICAN MAIL-PACKET COMPANY'S NEW STEAM-SHIP "PERSIA."

THIS Leviathan vessel, the largest steam-ship afloat in the world—far exceeding in length, strength, tonnage, and steam-power the *Great Britain* or the *Himalaya*; and exceeding also by no less than 1200 tons the internal capacity of the largest of the present splendid Cunard liners—left Liverpool on the 26th ult., commanded by Captain Judkins, the respected Commodore of the Cunard Company's mail packets, on her first voyage across the Atlantic.

Stupendous as the *Persia* is, the lines of beauty have been so well worked out in the preparation of her model that her appearance is singularly graceful and light-some. Yet this mighty fabric, so beautiful as a whole, is made up of innumerable pieces of ponderous metal, welded, jointed, and riveted into each other with exceeding deftness. The framing of the ship is very heavy. The space between each frame is only 10 inches, and the powerful frames, or ribs, are themselves 10 inches deep, with double angle irons at the outer and inner edges. The bow is constructed in a manner at once peculiar and affording the greatest possible strength to this important part of the ship. The framing is so placed to the stern that the effect is that, in the case of collision with other ships, or with rocks, or icebergs, the strain would fall upon the very strongest material within the structure, and the *Persia* would have a good chance of safety and successful resistance while ordinary vessels would be in great peril. She is not clinker-built, as some ships have been constructed of late. The plates or outer planking of the ship, so to speak, are laid alternately, so that one adds strength to the other, and they form a whole of

wonderful compactness and solidity. The keel-plates are 11-16ths of an inch in thickness; at the bottom of the ship the plates are 15-16ths of an inch in thickness; from this section to the load water-line they are  $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch; and above they are 11-16ths of an inch in thickness. The plates round the gunwale are  $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch in thickness.

The *Persia* has seven water-tight compartments. The goods are stowed in two of these divisions—each about 90 feet long by 16 in breadth, and 20 feet in height. These goods stores, or rather tanks, are placed in the centre line of the ship, with the coal-cellars, or bunkers, on each side of them. At the same time the vessel is so constructed as to have in reality a double bottom under these goods chambers, so that if the outer were beat in or injured the inner would, in all likelihood, protect the cargo dry and intact. The chambers are perfectly water-tight; and in the event of accident to the hull these tanks would of themselves float the ship. This liner has two engines, and eight large tubular boilers and two funnels; and we need only speak of her machinery in general, as being first class. The firing space for the boilers is placed in the fore and aft line, instead of across the ship, as is usually the case with smaller vessels.

She has separate sleeping accommodation for 260 passengers, disposed along what may be called the main deck, lying immediately above the goods and coal stores. These cabins have each 8 feet 6 inches of head-room; and, coupled with the excellent system of ventilation introduced into all the Cunard liners, we need scarcely say that they will be alike pleasant, airy, and healthful. Exclusively of the whole-

some accommodation for the officers and engineers, there are in the forward part of the ship about 120 berths; for the sailing crew, firemen, and stokers. The total number of persons employed in working the ship, from the captain down wards, is 150. Above the main deck there is a deck-house covered in, the roof of which affords a promenade from stem to stern. It contains the main dining-saloon, about 60 feet in length, by 20 feet in width, and 8 feet in height. It is copiously lighted from the sides by plates of glass placed in the alternate panels. In front is that important adjunct, the pantry, which has about 300 square feet of area; and before the funnels is the kitchen, of equal size, with its cooking-ranges, exceeding most and equaling any of the culinary establishments of the most extensive and noted hotels in the kingdom. But we have not space to enter further into detail than to say that on this deck and below it are also to be found the bakery, the butcher's shambles, the carpenter's workshop, the lamp-house, the doctor's shop, the icehouses, the bath room, &c.

The weight of the iron in the *Persia*, when launched, was 2200 tons; with the engines and fully loaded the weight of the immense mass will be 5400 tons, at which time she will draw 23 feet of water. Her coal cellars are constructed to receive 1400 tons of coal—an ample supply to carry her on her voyage across the Atlantic as fast as she can burn them. She has also accommodation for about 1200 tons measurement of goods.

In the *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS* of the 14th of July last we gave a sketch of the launch of this vessel; and the intervening period has been fully occupied in

laying her machinery, and fitting her out as the most magnificent floating hotel and good-transport that has ever breasted the waters. Her chief proportions may be summed up as follows:—

Length from figurehead to taffrail	..	..	390 feet
Length in the water	..	..	360 "
Breadth of the hull	..	..	45 "
Breadth over all	..	..	71 "
Depth	..	..	32 "
Burden	..	..	3,600 tons
Diameter of paddlewheels	..	..	40 feet.

According to the strict Government rules of admeasurement, her power is equal to that of 900 horses; according to the plan laid down in the Earl of Hardwicke's bill, her power is equal to that of 1200 horses; and according to James Watt's old established rule of 33 000lb. to the horse, she is expected to work up to the pitch of between 4000 and 5000 horses.

The *Persia* has been constructed entirely by Messrs. Robert Napier and Sons, of Glasgow, and in the trip from Greenock to Liverpool her performance gave the greatest satisfaction. With from 20 lb. to 21 lb. of pressure upon the square inch, she easily made 18½ statute miles an hour, while the paddles gave 17½ to 18 revolutions in the minute. She accomplished the distance from the Clock Lighthouse to the Bell Buoy, a distance of 175 knots, or 203 miles, in 10 hours and 43 minutes, making an average speed of 16 knots, or 19 miles an hour.

## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

## THE GREAT CLOCK OF WESTMINSTER PALACE.

In reply to the Marquis of Clanricarde, Earl GRANVILLE said the clock for the clock-tower was finished, and would be erected as soon as the room was ready to receive it; and he hoped that they would be able to hear its chimes before the end of the year, if not before the end of the Session.

## THE FALL OF KARS.

In answer to the Earl of Ellenborough, Earl GRANVILLE said he was not able, in the absence of the noble Earl the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to state the exact day on which the papers relating to Kars would be laid upon their Lordships' table.

The Earl of DERBY expressed a hope that the papers would be published in a separate form, and that they would not be mixed up with other documents relating to affairs in the East.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

## NEW MEMBER.

Mr. M'EVoy took the oaths and his seat for the county of Meath, in the place of the late Mr. Lucas.

## CHURCH-RATES.

In answer to Colonel Gilpin, Sir G. GREY said the Government had been considering the question of Church-rates, but he could not give an assurance that a bill would be brought in by them during the present Session.

## ROAD THROUGH ST. JAMES'S-PARK.

In answer to Mr. Hutchins, Sir G. GREY said it was intended to refer the question of a public road between Pimlico and Pall-mall through St. James's-park to a Select Committee.

## TICKET-OF-LEAVE CONVICTS.

Sir G. GREY said it was not the intention of Government to introduce any bill for altering the law relating to ticket-of-leave convicts.

## PASSING TOLLS ON SHIPPING.

Mr. LOWE, in moving for leave to bring in a bill for removing the passing tolls and local charges paid by the merchant shipping, enumerated the benefits which had resulted from the consolidation into one act of the laws relating to navigation, and explained that the bill which he wished to introduce would relieve our shipping from passing tolls, town dues, charitable charges, and special taxes, and that its provisions would apply to all the ports of the United Kingdom, with the exception of that of London. In altogether sweeping away the passing tolls the only difficulty which was met with was the debt which some of the ports entitled to them owed, and which they had contracted on the security of such tolls. To get rid of this difficulty, it was intended in some instances to pay the debt out of the Consolidated Fund, and in others that the Admiralty should take the ports, with all their responsibilities, into its own hands. In the case of the debts contracted on the security of the town dues, the rights of the creditors would be fully respected, and the liabilities divided between the shipping dues and the borough rates in proportion to their amounts, allowing the creditors to sue either of them, and if one were obliged to pay more than it had a right to do under this arrangement it should be reimbursed by the other. Under the proposed arrangements the shipping interests would be immediately benefited to the extent of £45,000 per annum; and if the measure were fully carried out by the total abolition of the town dues and other tolls, the ultimate benefit would be upwards of £200,000 a year.

After a short conversation, leave was granted to bring in the bill.

## METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Sir G. GREY moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the Acts relating to the Metropolitan police, so as to place them on the same footing as the Irish constabulary. The right hon. Baronet entered at some length into the details of his proposed bill, showing that the business would be more efficiently done, and at less expense, than by the present mode.

## EPISCOPAL PROPERTY.

The Marquis of BLANDFORD obtained leave to bring in a bill to make better provision for the management of episcopal and capitular property; and also a bill to facilitate the formation and endowment of separate and distinct parishes.

## CHANCERY REFORM.

Mr. WHITESIDE obtained leave to introduce five bills for Chancery reform in Ireland.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL for IRELAND obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish the Encumbered Estates Court (Ireland); enlarge the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery (Ireland) to increase its powers, and reform its procedure. The bill provided for simplifying and cheapening the proceedings in the Court of Chancery, and abolishing certain stamps and fees; and, to make up the deficiency of the court fees, a charge of two per cent would be placed on the amount of all property sold.

Mr. WHITESIDE strongly objected to the abolition of stamps and fees in the chief court, unless the Government were prepared to do away with them in every other court in Ireland, and also to apply the same principle in England.

Mr. CAIRNS, though he approved of the measure, could not consent to the anticipated deficiency arising from the reduction in stamps and fees being made up from the Consolidated Fund.

Mr. MALINZ deprecated the measure, which he thought impracticable.

Mr. GEORGE objected to pensioning the senior officers in the Court of Chancery, as they were perfectly capable of good service.

Mr. V. SCULLY supported the measure.

## DRAUGHTS ON BANKERS.

Mr. PELLATT obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to draughts on bankers.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The Leases and Sales of Settled Estates Bill was read a second time on the motion of the LORD CHANCELLOR; and, after a brief discussion, in which Lord Campbell, the Earl of Derby, and Lord Brougham took part.

The LORD CHANCELLOR introduced a bill designed to remove the doubts which he observed at present existed respecting the authority of the Court of Queen's Bench to order the removal of trials under criminal indictments from the provincial assizes to the Central Criminal Court. The bill was read a first time.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

## RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. COBDEN begged to ask whether it was the intention of the Government to lay before the House the correspondence explanatory of our present relations with the United States of America? That portion of the correspondence which related to Central America had already been published in the American papers, and he believed it was completed. To the other, relating to the enlisting difficulty, there might be some objection, as he believed it was not yet closed.

Lord PALMERSTON said that neither of the correspondences referred to could be said to be complete; whenever they were, of course there could be no objection to lay before the House such portions of them as might be deemed desirable.

## NATIONAL EDUCATION.

In answer to Mr. Elliot, the LORD ADVOCATE announced his intention to bring in a bill for the extension of National Education in Scotland.

## ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Mr. K. PHILLIMORE, promised, on behalf of the Government, a measure on the subject of Ecclesiastical Courts.

## BANK OF ENGLAND.

To questions from Mr. Glyn, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER replied that there was no present intention either to interfere with the existing privileges of the Bank of England, or to institute any inquiry into the effect of the Act under which the Bank exercised its important functions in relation to the monetary system and circulating medium of the country. Submitting that a time of war was the least fit for the commencement of such an investigation, he nevertheless stated that no opposition would be offered by the Government to any independent motion for a committee of inquiry should the House consider that step expedient.

## BOMBERG PROPELLER.

Colonel DUNNE asked whether it were true (as stated in a French paper) that an armistice had been agreed on between the Allied Powers and Russia; and further, whether this armistice extended to operations by sea, or to those carried on in Asia.

Lord PALMERSTON: One of the arrangements agreed to at Vienna was that, first of all, preliminaries of peace should be negotiated and signed, and that after that an armistice should be arranged between the parties. The preliminaries have not yet been signed. They are to be discussed and signed by the Plenipotentiaries when they meet at Paris; and it is not until after that that the question of an armistice can be taken into consideration.

Mr. H. BAILLIE hoped the noble Lord would soon be able to lay the correspondence on the table of the House. Meantime he would postpone the motion which stood in his name for the 14th inst.

Sir DE L. EVANS: Have directions been given that in this armistice the Russian Government may not be allowed to use the sea for the transport of troops and stores pending that armistice?

Lord PALMERSTON: Armistices are of various kinds, and involve different provisions in each particular case in which an armistice is concluded. I have stated just now that it was agreed that an armistice should follow the conclusion of a preliminary treaty; but, of course, until

the terms of that armistice are discussed and considered, it would be quite premature for me to state anything about them (Hear, hear).

## PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS moved for an account of the public income and expenditure, urging many complaints against the Government, who, he declared, still withheld a multitude of details respecting various charges incurred in the collection of the revenue.

After some explanations from Mr. Wilson, followed by a few remarks from Sir H. Willoughby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the motion was withdrawn.

## COUNTY AND BOROUGH POLICE.

Sir G. GREY moved for leave to bring in a bill to render more efficient the police force in counties and boroughs of England and Wales. By this measure, as the Home Secretary explained, it was not intended to remove the jurisdiction of the county and borough police from the hands in which it was now lodged. He designed, however, to render compulsory the establishment of an efficient police force in counties, and to assign authority for the division of counties into districts for police purposes to the Queen in Council. Under certain circumstances, also, the Crown would have power to issue regulations touching the management of the police, as also to appoint inspectors to report upon the state and conduct of the force in the rural districts. Boroughs containing a population below 5000 would be considered as part of the county in which they stood, so far as the present bill was concerned; and some portion, not exceeding 25 per cent, of the charges arising from the establishment of the contemplated police force would be defrayed out of the Consolidated Fund.

Sir J. PAKINGTON expressed a general approval of the measure just presented, believing at the same time that the grant from the public exchequer would be found inadequate, and recommending that the establishment of a police force should be made compulsory in boroughs as well as in counties.

Approving opinions respecting the bill, accompanied by some criticisms on matters of detail, were afterwards enunciated by Mr. Hamilton-Nisbet, Mr. Deedes, Mr. Rice, Mr. Buck, Lord Lovaine, and several other members. Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

## MIDNIGHT LEGISLATION.

Mr. BROTHERTON moved a series of resolutions providing that pending debates should stand adjourned at midnight, and that no opposed business should be entered upon and no committee work proceed after that hour. Remarking upon the injury to health sustained by members from the present practice of late sitting, accompanied, as he believed, with no benefit to the public, he suggested some regulations for the more speedy dispatch of business; and, among other contrivances, recommended some abbreviation of prolix and the omission of useless speeches.

The motion was seconded by Mr. EWART.

Lord PALMERSTON recognised the benevolent intention which had prompted the motion, but contended that its adoption would seriously hamper the transaction of legislative business.

Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. BASS having briefly supported the motion, the House divided:—For the motion, 50; against it, 111: majority, 61.

## CHURCH-RATES.

Mr. PACKE sought leave to introduce a bill abolishing Church-rates, except for certain specified purposes, making provision for the maintenance of the fabric and necessary fittings of parish churches, enabling persons to redeem their liability to Church-rates; and otherwise amending the law respecting the assessment, levy, and collection of the rate throughout England and Wales. After remarking upon some previous attempts at legislation on this important subject, the hon. member described the provisions of his present measure. The Church-rate hitherto required for the performance of Divine service was to be wholly abolished, and all occupiers were to be exempted from paying the rate, which was to fall on the owners, these also being allowed to redeem their liability on the payment of a reasonable sum.

Sir W. CLAY, while assenting to the motion, intimated his intention himself to propose, in a few days, a bill for the total abolition of Church-rates.

After a few words from Mr. E. BALL, leave was given to bring in the bill.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND obtained leave to bring in two bills respecting Juries and Common Law Courts in Ireland.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

Mr. LABOUCHERE took the oaths and his seat for the borough of Taunton, on his re-election on his appointment to the office of Secretary of State for the Colonies.

## PARTNERSHIP AMENDMENT BILL AND JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES BILL.

On the motion of Mr. LOWE, the second reading of these bills was fixed for Friday.

Mr. HASTIE trusted that a longer postponement would take place. When the bill came to be fully understood the country would be found to be perfectly unanimous against it.

Several other members spoke in favour of postponement.

Mr. MUNZ believed that the bill, if passed, would be a complete delusion on the commercial interests, and would be as great a failure as the bill of last year. There was nothing commercial in the bill, it was nothing but a philosophical scheme.

After some further discussion, it was arranged that the second reading should be taken on Friday (last evening).

## METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL.

Sir G. GREY moved the second reading of this bill.

In reply to some questions put by Sir H. Willoughby, Sir G. GREY stated that the bill would involve no increase of charge to the public, and that the Chief Commissioner would act under the same authority as was defined under the existing acts of Parliament. The present bill would in no way interfere with the authority under which the Commissioners would act.

The bill was then read a second time.

## SUPPLY.

Mr. WILSON brought up the report of the Committee of Supply; and stated, in reply to a question put by Sir F. Willoughby, that it was not the intention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make any Financial Statement with respect to the past year before proceeding with the Estimates.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

## LIFE PEERAGES.

The House was crowded in every part by persons anxious to hear Lord LYNDHURST's speech upon the Wensleydale peerage.

Lord LYNDHURST rose to submit the following motion, viz.:—

That the patent for creating the Right Hon. Sir James Parke, Knight, a Baron of the United Kingdom, and laid upon the table of this House, be referred to the Committee for Privileges, to consider and to report thereon.

The noble and learned Lord said the subject which he was about to bring under the notice of their Lordships was one of the utmost importance, as it related to the composition of their Lordships' House. It must not be supposed that he had any personal objection to the elevation of his noble friend to the peerage; he only objected to the manner of his elevation. He had been strongly urged by his friends to bring this subject under the consideration of their Lordships. He did not mean to call in question the prerogative of the Crown, but only the mode in which the responsible advisers of the Sovereign had recommended her Majesty to exercise it. For a period of 400 years no similar tenure of a peerage for life had been conferred; it had a tendency to destroy the peculiar character of that House, and he contended that it was a gross violation of the principles of the Constitution. The first patent for the creation of a Peer, which was cited in justification of the late creation, was issued in the reign of Richard II.; but so strong was the feeling upon this subject that in the following year the patent was abolished, and a pension granted as an equivalent. The noble Lord went on to quote other supposed precedents, particularly life peerages conferred by Henry V. on his brothers in the beginning of his reign, but which he subsequently revoked, granting in their stead corresponding dignities to descend on their male heirs. The great reason assigned for this new creation was that it was necessary to add to the judicial strength of the House. He, however, contended that there never was a time at which the House was distinguished by more judicial knowledge and ability than the present. No such reason could, therefore, be considered a justification for so palpable an encroachment on their Lordships' privileges. The noble and learned Lord, after an eloquent oration, concluded by the motion of which he had given notice, and resumed his seat amid loud cheers.

Earl GRANVILLE paid a high compliment to the speech just delivered by Lord LYNDHURST, but contended that it was absolutely necessary to keep up the judicial strength of that House, at a period when so many important questions turning upon law were brought under their consideration. This was not the first time an intention had been evinced by the Crown to add to the judicial strength of the House. In 1851 an offer of a life peerage was made to a learned Judge, but declined from motives of modesty—not that the individual referred to disapproved of this act of the Crown, but rather that it would be indecent in him to be the first instrument of the innovation from ordinary practice. The noble and learned Lord had mixed up the legal, constitutional, and expedient questions together; but he shrank from asserting that it was both legal and constitutional, and, being so, it followed that it was expedient.

Lord ST. LEONARDS supported the views taken by Lord LYNDHURST.

The LORD CHANCELLOR opposed the motion, contending that the creation of a life peerage was perfectly constitutional.

Lord CAMPBELL gave it as his opinion that the creation was illegal.

Earl GREY supported the Government.

After a lengthened discussion, which lasted until half-past two, their Lordships divided, when the numbers were—

For Lord LYNDHURST's motion:—

Contents ..	..	..	..	..	..	79
Proxies ..	..	..	..	..	..	57-138
Against the motion:—						
Non-contents ..	..	..	..	..	..	53

Proxies .. .. .. .. .. .. 52-105

Majority against Government .. .. .. .. .. .. 33

## MUSIC.

THE anniversary meeting of the Purcell Club was held on Tuesday at the Albion Tavern, in Aldersgate-street. A numerous assemblage of members and visitors, among whom were many of our most eminent professional musicians and amateurs, sat down to dinner; the chair being occupied by Professor Edward Taylor, of Gresham College, the founder and president of the club. Mr. Taylor was supported in the chair by Mr. Evans, the president of the Western Madrigal Society; Mr. Dixon, the president of the Glee Club; and several other distinguished lovers of English music. The entertainments of the evening were of the highest interest. They included specimens of Purcell's genius in every style; several of his most sublime anthems written for the choir of Westminster Abbey when he was at its head; a selection from the music in "The Tempest"; and some of his finest songs, concerted pieces, and choruses from his other dramatic works. Mr. Turle, Purcell's worthy successor as organist of Westminster Abbey, conducted the performances. Mr. Benson, Mr. Lawler, and Mr. Montem Smith sang the principal solos; and the concerted pieces and choruses were sustained by a number of admirable singers—the elite of the various cathedral choirs, especially that of Westminster Abbey. Every piece had been carefully studied and rehearsed under Mr. Turle's superintendence; and the result was a performance which, for precision, purity, and expression, could scarcely have been surpassed. The company—all of them conversant with Purcell's works, and intelligent admirers of his music—were delighted; and some of the most exquisite gems of his genius—particularly the lovely song of *Ariel*, "Come unto these yellow sands," accompanied by its aerial chorus; the music of invisible spirits announcing to *Ferdinand* the death of his father, "Full fathom five thy father lies;" and the fresh and charming chorus, "The Nereids and Tritons"—were received with bursts of enthusiasm. The celebrated duet, "Haste, my Daridcar," was admirably sung by Messrs. Smith and Lawler. We have never been able, by the way, to discover how the soft and musical name "Damilcar," which is found in every edition of Dryden, has been corrupted into so harsh and uncouth a word as *Daridcar*. It is evidently a mere blunder in printing Purcell's music, and the singers ought to correct it. The song "I attempt from Love's sickness to fly," one of the most graceful and expressive melodies ever imagined, was sung by Mrs. Benson with exquisite taste and feeling, and encored with acclamations. There cannot be a better president of a musical institution than the Professor of Music in Gresham College. Though old in years, knowledge, and experience, Mr. Taylor retains all his youthful ardour and devotion to his art. He has converted his professional chair, which for more than a century had been a mere sinecure, into a most efficient and important School of Music. His lectures—in which learning, research, and solid information are adorned and made attractive by the graces of eloquence and fancy—are constantly attended by eager audiences, who crowd his lecture-room to the doors; and it may be truly said that no one man has ever done so much for the diffusion of sound musical knowledge and pure taste among the people of London. The Purcell Club owes to him its existence: it was founded by him, with the aid of a few kindred spirits, twenty years ago; and so judiciously was it planned, and so ably has it been carried on, that its progress has been regular and uninterrupted, till it has become one of the most prosperous and important musical associations in England. The works of the most illustrious of England's musicians, though they are, through foreign influences, at present too much neglected by his countrymen, are daily becoming known to a wider and wider circle—a circle which the Purcell Club mainly contributes to extend, and which will one day embrace every English amateur worthy of the name.

MRS. T. GERMAN REED (late Miss P. Horton) has removed her very agreeable and popular Musical Entertainment to the Gallery of Illustration, in Regent street, where it was given for the first time on Monday evening; the room having been fitted up and elegantly decorated expressly for it. The performances are substantially the same as before, though some additional delineations have been introduced. The most remarkable feature of the entertainment, "The Enraged Musician," is as clever and attractive as ever. It is Hogarth's famous picture put in action. Mr. Reed personates the unfortunate virtuoso distracted by a series of annoyances, in all of which Mrs. Reed is the agent—being at one time an Italian organ-grinder, at another a noisy maid-of-all-work, and again a French cantatrice applying for an engagement. Mrs. Reed sings beautifully throughout the entertainment; her performance of "Robert, toi que j'aime," in the character of the French prima donna, Madame Cassandra Chanterie, though slightly burlesqued, is really a very finished and beautiful piece of vocalisation. It is a sad thing that, while we have such admirable dramatic singers as Miss P. Horton, we have not a single musical theatre where they can appear.

BEAUMONT INSTITUTION.—A grand concert (the second of the season) took place at this assembly-room on Monday evening last; the vocalists being Miss Dolby, Miss Lucy Escott, Miss R. Stage, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Winn, and Mr. J. L. Hatton. Like its predecessors, it attracted a numerous audience, and was in every respect successful. In securing the services of Mr. Sims Reeves to their series of concerts the managers display both taste and foresight. The name of our great tenor, at the same time that it is certain to "draw a good house," elevates the character of any concert with which it may be connected. On the present occasion Mr. Sims Reeves did full justice to his fame. In the song of "Di Pescatore," from the opera of "Lucrezia Borgia," and the ballad of "Good Morrow," by Charles Mackay and Frank Mori, he was rapturously applauded, and sang for an encore of the former Hatton's popular song of "Good bye, Sweetheart." For the second encore he repeated the graceful little ballad itself, rendering it with a pathos and a gallantry combined which gave it an indescribable charm. Miss Dolby, who contributed to the evening's entertainment no less than four songs, was received with that honour which is due to her high position among English vocalists. Of the other performers we will merely mention Miss Lucy Escott, who sang with remarkable power and feeling, and Mr. J. L. Hatton, who accompanied himself to a new comic song of his own composition, called "Kit the Cobbler."

ON Ash Wednesday all the Theatres were closed except Covent Garden, where a "monster concert" was given. There was an army of performers, including several eminent names: among the singers, Madame Caradori, Miss Escott, Madame Amadei, Miss Stabbach, the Messrs. Braham, and some others; among the instrumentalists, Mr. Collins, Mr. Case, and Mr. Billet. The concert was of enormous length, the programme containing between forty and fifty pieces; but there was nothing new or interesting to the musical amateur. The theatre was well filled, but by no means crowded.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—Mr. Costa's oratorio, "Eli," which created so much interest at the last Birmingham Festival, will be performed for the first time in London at Exeter Hall on Friday next.

## THE THEATRES.

ADEPHIL.—Various works of Mr. Dickens, like several of Sir Walter Scott, have been adapted to the boards, with more or less success; and this year the minor and remote theatres have been diligent in manufacturing versions of "The Holly-Tree Inn," and digesting its many stories into one amalgam—a drama containing the characters of all, connected by such threads of association as might prove available for the purpose. One story, that of "Boots at the Inn," containing the narrative of the infant elopement to Gretna, tempting as it is, has proved too delicate for general manipulation. Mr. Webster, however, has undertaken the difficult task with his accustomed courage; and, in our opinion, has come out of it triumphantly. He perceived at once that it was necessary to make Cobbs the central figure; and, therefore, undertook himself the delineation of that master of the ceremonies, who was to introduce the snowed-up traveller of the inn to the delicious pair of little lovers, with whose strange secret he had become acquainted. The piece commences with the exterior of the inn, and the arrival of the coachman and guard with their inside passenger, cleverly individualised by Mr. Parselle; the interior of the inn, however, is soon presented, with its large room and dark red curtains, and comfortable screen, with Cobbs to entertain the lonely and modest guest with the tale of the preliminary love-makings of the infant Henry Walmer and his attached Norah. So much for the needful proem of the little pastoral; when, some expedient stage-business having been dispatched, the tiny hero and heroine themselves enter, on their matrimonial tour, in the persons of Miss Manning and Miss Craddock—both capital representatives, the hero in particular being admirably impersonated. Mr. Webster here manifests with the most minute care the sympathetic feelings with which Cobbs regards the affianced children, the perplexity of his moral judgments, and the necessity to which he submits in acting for the best. The truth and nature manifested by the actor entitle him to the highest possible praise. But the delineation is not of a kind to compel noisy demonstrations from the pit; nevertheless, it cannot fail of being appreciated by great numbers; and Mr. Webster must not be discouraged by the coolness of its first reception. Ere long it will be thoroughly and generally understood, and then cannot fail of securing a permanent acceptance.

COVENT GARDEN.—Mr. Jerrold's nautical drama of "Black-eyed Susan" was revived on Monday, and the part of the sailor (*William*) performed by Professor Anderson. His assumption of the character was marked by the qualities that gained acceptance for his *Rob Roy*—a roughness and raciness of execution, the sincerity of which atoned for the want of refinement. Miss Harriet Gordon in the part of the heroine acted with good intention; but her pathos was not potent enough for so large a house. However, the play on the whole was adequately represented, and the applause of a very numerous audience was exceedingly demonstrative as the curtain fell.

SADLER'S WELLS.—"The City Madam" was revived on Friday week, when Mrs. Marston enacted the part of *Lady Frugal* for the first time, and succeeded admirably in bringing out most forcibly the points of the character. The part of *Luke* was powerfully acted by Mr. Phelps; and this fine old play, which commanded a full house, was throughout greatly applauded.

ON Tuesday Mr. C. Charles gave, for the first time, a most amusing lecture to the Camberwell Literary and Scientific Institution, on "The Ludicrous and Lyrical Literature of Love," in which the lecturer gave illustrations, from different authors, of love in its different phases, both cheerful and lugubrious. Mr. Charles's sketch of an excited Frenchman and a wide-awake Yankee was most amusing, and showed that he possessed great versatility of talent. The lecture, which bristled with *bon-mots* and clever sayings, was enlivened with several songs, and gave great satisfaction to a large audience.

## NATIONAL SPORTS.

WITH the publication of the acceptances for the Chester Cup, racing speculation for the coming season may be said to have fairly set in. Only 89 out of the 196 weighted have had the pen drawn through their names; while 45 out of 85, headed by the evergreen Rataplan, 9 st. 7 lb., stand in for the Great Northern Handicap. The steeplechase horses have also accepted in great force for the Liverpool National, Bourton and ten others being the only recusants out of 51. Sir Peter Laurie is, oddly enough, kept at the head of the betting for it, "solely by the City men." Enchanter, the winner of the Molecomb Stakes, and one of Mr. A. Johnstone's Annandale blood, has been backed for the 2000 guineas, for which race, as well as the Chester Cup, Yellow Jack is first favourite. Every effort is being made by the Findon party to induce the public to believe that this very fourth-rate performer has bloomed into a second Teddington during the last three months, solely, as we believe, to get money out of him for one race, and to let them get quietly on to Scythian, at long odds for the other. Mr. Morris's almost-forgotten Artillery is once more brought into strong play for the Derby at Tattersall's, and 100 to 7 were the latest quotations.

Orestes and Snowdon Dunhill have both gone to the stud; Wild Dayrell's dam has returned to Sweetmeat's paddocks; and Blue Bonnet, who is now the property of Mr. Crawfurd, has had a fine colt foal to Flying Dutchman. Although his friends have watched with sorrow the gradual decline of his health for nearly two years, the racing world were not a little shocked to hear that their favourite, Frank Butler, was no more. Severe lung disease had prevented him from riding in public since the Houghton Saturday of 1853; but he buoyed himself up almost to the last with the prospect of other Derbys yet in store for him, a hope which all who knew his real state felt to be a mere dream. He had been confined to the house about ten days when his last three days of serious illness set in, and he expired quite painlessly about half-past five o'clock on Friday afternoon, in the thirty-ninth year of his age. We have heard that in early life he was destined for the Church, but the ruling passion for the saddle was not to be quenched in a nephew of the brothers Chifney; and hence, beginning at sixteen, he went through nine years of adversity, succeeded by eleven of almost unparalleled triumph. Although he had not, perhaps, the quickness and intuitive genius for riding of Job Marston and Sam Rogers, he was a first-class horseman, and excelled especially in the coolness and elegance of his finishes, which were not inferior to Robinson's in his best day. Match-riding was what he loved best, and the extent of his general practice may be judged from the fact that in 1850-51 he rode 234 races at Newmarket, and won 89 of them. During the same period he rode in no less than 384 races, and was successful in 143! As a trier and judge of the qualities and shape of a racehorse he was almost unrivalled, and, notwithstanding a certain reserve in his manner, except to his very intimate friends, no one was more popular in his native Newmarket. Two St. Legers, two Derbys, and six Oaks fell to his share in eleven seasons; and, though West Australian was the horse of his heart, his doings on Iago, Canezou, Longbow, and a host of others, principally from the Whitewall or Bedford stables, will quite entitle him to a place by Sam Chifney and Frank Buckle in the memory of turfites. He survived his wife, by whom he had no family, only thirteen months. He left no will; but, although he was liberal to a degree, and would have everything of the very best, both in his house and stable, he is supposed to have died worth upwards of £10,000.

The Pembrokeshire Hunt Meeting comes off on Tuesday, and has four steeplechases on its list; Narbeth, near Haverfordwest, is fixed for the same day; and the Lincoln "mixed meeting" for Tuesday and Wednesday. The principal steeplechase here, for which eleven out of fourteen accept, is on the list for the first of these days, as well as the Trial and Two-Year-Old Stakes, each of which has nine subscribers. The handicap with its sixteen acceptances, and the handicap hurdle-race, are the leading items of the second day; and as, owing to the open weather, the thoroughbreds are very forward in their work, we may look for a highly auspicious opening of the racing season.

The frozen-out foxhunters who were beginning to dot Pall-mall and Piccadilly have once more disappeared to the cover-side; and we hear that their Dorsetshire brethren, yeomen as well as "scarlets," have subscribed £1500 towards erecting a column in the most elevated part of the county to commemorate Mr. Farquharson's fifty years' mastership. The complaint of a want of foxes in the I'ytchley country has been lately aggravated by the rumour that an enormous vixen, evidently one of the Highland breed introduced by the late Lord Alford, was wantonly killed by the keepers in one of Lord Cardigan's woods.

The Court of Exchequer has, after two very elaborate arguments, decided that grouse are, legally speaking, "game," and that trover will lie for them when they are dead. It was, however, equally divided upon the point as to whether the owners of cattle-gates on a grouse moor could shoot over them without the consent of the lord of the manor.

The coursing meetings of the ensuing week are arranged as follows:—The Amicable (Hampton Park), on Tuesday; Coquedale, on Tuesday and Wednesday; and Biggar Champion (open), on those two days and Thursday; Amesbury (open) comes off on Tuesday, &c.; Hewell, on Wednesday; Knipscars, on Thursday; Baldock Club on the same two days; and Sandorne Spring, on Thursday and Friday.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—The official accounts published on Tuesday last show that, in the year ended the 31st of December, 1855, the public income of the United Kingdom amounted to £63,364,605, and the public expenditure to £54,505,788, leaving a deficiency of £21,141,183. Of the revenue, the Customs yielded £20,937,752; the Excise, £16,339,438; the stamps, £6,805,604; the taxes (land and assessed), £2,945,751; the property-tax (income-tax), £18,718,185; the Post-office, £1,137,219; the Crown lands, £280,515; the sale of old stores, &c., £522,138; moneys received from the East India Company, £60,000; miscellaneous receipts, £402,768; and unclaimed dividends, £115,149. Of the expenditure, the interest and management of the permanent debt cost £22,792,594; terminable annuities, £173,240; the interest of Exchequer Bonds (1854), £217,000; the interest of Exchequer Bills (supply), £560,635; deficiency, £9386; and ways and means, £26,749; making a grand total, for the public debt, of £27,647,899. The civil list entailed a charge of £396,570; annuities and pensions, £340,991; salaries, &c., £162,697; diplomatic salaries and pensions, £149,244; and courts of justice, £493,082. Of the "Supply" services, the Army cost £14,545,559; the Navy, £19,014,708; and the Ordnance, £9,632,290. The vote of credit (additional expenses of the war with Russia), £5,200,000; and miscellaneous civil services, £6,741,128. The balances of public money remaining in the Exchequer on the 31st of December last amounted to the sum of £3,668,600, against £6,015,612 on the 5th of January, 1855. In an earlier account, made up to the 30th of September, 1855, the revenue is made to amount to £62,990,580, and the expenditure to £78,505,553—leaving a deficiency of £15,514,973.

WILLS.—The will of the Right Hon. Thomas Baron Truro was sworn under £20,000 personality; the widow is sole executrix and universal legatee by a codicil.—William Mountford Nurse, Esq., Regent's-park and Brighton, Deputy-Governor of the Union Bank of London, £80,000-personality.—Admiral Richard Curry, £40,000.—Colonel J. Trelawney, H.E.I.C., £80,000.—Captain Cooke, R.N., £40,000.—Captain W. H. Henderson, R.N., £40,000.—Captain F. S. Attree, 31st Foot, Crimea, £3000.—A. E. K. Hamilton, Esq., Oswell House, Newton Abbott, £35,000.—C. A. Partridge, Esq., Horsenden, £20,000.—P. W. Urwin, Esq., Camberwell, £14,000.—Samuel Stanton, maltster, Northampton, £9000.—G. C. Redman, shipowner, Poplar, £1000.—W. Field, Redditch, needle-manufacturer, £6000.—W. Fuller, Sussex, farmer, died intestate, personality £14,000.

## NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

ORDERS have been received at Portsmouth to fit out thirty mortar-vessels.

HALF-A-DOZEN of the old hulks in Portsmouth harbour are to be fitted as powder-magazines, for the more immediate supply of our war-steamer.

SEVERAL schooners have been loaded with 68-pounder guns at the Arsenal-wharf, Woolwich, and will proceed to Portsmouth and Plymouth, the cargo being for the service of the gun-boat fleet now forming at those parts.

HER MAJESTY has been pleased to confer a Baronetcy upon Lieutenant-General Sir J. Burgoyne, K.C.B., in consideration of the long and faithful services which from an early period in the late war down to the siege of Sebastopol have connected his name with the principal achievements of the British army.

CAPTAIN BARLOW's company of the Suffolk Artillery marched into Ipswich on Tuesday, from Landguard Fort, to relieve No. 5 company, now under orders for that destination. They have been greatly improved during their nine months' sojourn at Landguard Fort, and their conduct has been indicative of the sound discipline enforced by their commanding officer. Such men are, indeed, a credit to the service. Their appearance and soldierly deportment, as they marched through the streets, afforded matter for general observation.

THE iron mortar-float No. 1, which sustained considerable damage under the experiments at Shoeburyness, has, with No. 2 of the same series, been repaired at Woolwich Dockyard, and they are again ready for service. Some alterations have been considered necessary in the rigging of these boats, which has been changed for a standing lug and fore and aft sail, the cutter-rigging preventing them from answering the helm. They again bent sails on Tuesday morning. These are to be speedily followed by thirty-two others of the same construction:—viz., twenty from Messrs. Scott Russell's, and twelve from Marc's, the whole to be fitted out and manned at Woolwich.

THE Earl of Glasgow has offered to pay an additional bounty of £2 to recruits for the Prince of Wales Royal Regiment of Militia, of the standard height of five feet five inches.

SIX sample rockets were fired for experimental purposes from the Arsenal Marshes at Woolwich on Saturday, with a view of testing the efficiency of an improvement brought out by Captain Boxer on the old Congreve system. The experiment turned out very satisfactorily. It is, therefore, intended to introduce this improved principle in the future manufacture of rockets.

ORDERS have been issued from the Horse Guards for 260 of the Coldstream Guards and 124 of the Scots Fusilier Guards, with the customary complement of officers, to hold themselves in readiness to embark early in next week on board the *Indus*, at Portsmouth, for active service in the Crimea.

DURING the last few days a considerable increase has been made in the number of labourers employed in the various departments of the Arsenal at Woolwich. Some idea of the vast amount of labour performed in that establishment, where 9000 hands are constantly employed, may be formed by stating that the consumption of powder on Wednesday last in preparing ammunition for cannon, independently of small-arm cartridges, exceeded 46,000 lb. Besides the large number of shells cast in this establishment, contracts with the Scots, Yorkshire, Liverpool, and other foundries are on a very extensive scale: 2000 of these shells are loaded and prepared daily, and 20,000 musket cartridges.

LOSS OF THE WAR-STEAMER "POLYPHEMUS."—A telegraphic message from Copenhagen states that the *Polypheus* was totally lost on the 29th ult., south of Hanstholm Light, north-west coast of Jutland. The master and fourteen hands were drowned. A strong current and fog were the cause of the accident.

THE TRADE IN CONTRABAND OF WAR.—Plentiful cargoes, contraband of war, we continue to be supplied with, arriving in the Elbe without let or hindrance, although a few days ago the arrival of a British war-steamer at Cuxhaven was announced. In less than a week we have received no less than eleven cargoes of sulphur, three of saltpetre, and two of lead, and several of them were brought in British vessels.—*Letter from Hamburg, Feb. 3*

PRIVATE JOHN PENN, 17TH LANCERS.—A penny subscription has been started at Maidstone for the purpose of rewarding this Crimean hero with a sum of money for his services. Mr. W. Randall, of the New Inn, Maidstone, who has been appointed treasurer of the fund, will gladly receive subscriptions from the public.

## THE PUBLIC RECEPTION OF ADMIRAL SIR EDMUND LYONS AT CHRISTCHURCH.

At an early hour on Monday, the 28th ult., the streets of Christchurch were filled with visitors from the entire neighbourhood for miles round, assembled to do honour to its illustrious townsman. At a quarter to twelve o'clock Sir Edmund Lyons and his gallant relative, Admiral Walcott, with Mrs. Walcott, the two Misses Walcott, Miss Pearson, Mr. Bickerton Lyons, Mr. Algernon Lyons, R.N., Flag-Lieutenant to Sir Edmund; his son-in-law, the Earl of Arundel and Surrey; his grandson, Lord Maltavers; and the Rev. Mackenzie Walcott, left Winkton House, escorted by a guard of honour furnished by the Royal Horse Artillery, under the command of Lieut. Torriano, the godson of Sir Edmund. The route lay through the hamlet of Burton, where, at White Hayes, on November 21, 1790, he was born; and, at intervals, demonstrations of respect and gratification were exhibited by the erection of wreaths, flags, and arches.

At Farewell Cross the ovation commenced. Three smaller arches led towards a grand triumphal arch, on which was elevated a boat representing the famous *Agamemnon*, filled with boys as seamen; and on the adjacent house appeared the motto "Three cheers for brave Admiral Lyons;" and a device at Mr. Newman's representing a lion crushing an expiring bear. At this point the military were relieved by a party of coast-guardsmen with drawn cutlasses, under the command of Lieutenant Burleigh, R.N.; the horses were removed from the carriage, and about thirty stout blue-jackets harnessed themselves with ropes and drew it onward. A deputation of the inhabitants, preceded by Mr. Aldridge and a band of music, led the way. On passing Stony-lane, the salute of seventeen guns, fired by the Artillery, announced the entrance of the honoured guest of the day. The windows of every house along the crowded road, upwards of a mile in extent, was filled with happy faces, smiling a greeting; every front was decorated; and the air rent with continuous acclamations. On Waterloo-bridge, beneath a triumphal arch, appropriately inscribed, a pause was made, while the band played the air of "Cheer, boys, cheer." On the High-bridge again there was a halt beneath a turreted arch, which bore the words:



RECEPTION OF ADMIRAL SIR EDMUND LYONS AT CHRISTCHURCH.

Mackenzie Walcott. The usual loyal toasts having been drunk with all the honours, the noble Chairman next proposed "The Navy and the Army."

Admiral Walcott, M.P., acknowledged the compliment paid to the Navy; and Colonel Cameron returned thanks on behalf of the Army.

The Chairman then gave "The Health of Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, and the Heroes of the Crimea and the Black Sea."

The toast was drunk with acclamation.

Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons said: "My lords, ladies, and gentlemen—You have done me the honour of associating my name with the names of those who have distinguished themselves in the Crimean campaign. I only wish that I felt myself deserving the praise you have so kindly bestowed upon me. But all I pretend to is an honest and earnest desire to do my duty to my Sovereign and my country to the best of my humble ability (Cheers). The nature of the present war is such as to afford but few opportunities to fleets or large ships to take any prominent or distinguished part. In the Black Sea the Russian fleet has been self-annihilated, and we had the mortification of seeing their ships of war sunk beneath the waves by their own hands instead of by our broadsides. In the Baltic, again, the enemy's fleet has lain at anchor, secure under the shadow of their own granite walls and stupendous batteries. The Commanders-in-Chief in the Baltic have had to report many daring and successful exploits performed by the officers and men under their command; and I have had the satisfaction of reporting what has taken place in the Sea of Azoff, where I think I may say, without any fear of contradiction, and with perfect safety, that the exertions of the Commanders-in-Chief have been seconded by as gallant a band of young officers as ever went forth in the service of their country" (Cheers). I hope you will do me the justice to believe that it is impossible for any man to feel more sensible than I do of the honour which has been paid to me,

not only in this room, but out of doors; and I shall return to my command with an increased desire, if that be possible, to do my duty. (The gallant Admiral was loudly cheered on resuming his seat.)

A number of other toasts were given, including "The Ladies" and "The Officers of the Royal Artillery;" after which the party broke up, highly delighted with the proceedings of the day. At five o'clock Sir Edmund Lyons returned with Admiral Walcott to Winkton. The gallant officer was accompanied to the outskirts of the town by an enthusiastic multitude.

#### NAVIGATION OF THE RIVER ELBE.

A NOVEL and important experiment has just been made on the Elbe with a view to ascertain how far it is practicable to keep the navigation of that river open during the winter.

At present all communication by sea between this country and Hamburg is completely stopped during a considerable portion of the winter months, or is only partially carried on at irregular intervals as far as Gluckstadt, thence by railway to Hamburg.

The rapidly-increasing traffic has forced on the attention of the Hamburg authorities the vast importance of an uninterrupted navigation; and the owners of the screw-steamer *Pollux* undertook the apparently dangerous task of proving that so desirable a result may be attained without much difficulty, and at a cost trifling compared to the very tedious process now adopted to break the ice and clear the navigation.

The *Pollux* is the property of Hamburg owners, and was built by Messrs. C. Mitchell and Co., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, for the London and Hamburg trade. The vessel, having discharged her cargo at Gluckstadt, was trimmed

by the stern, in order to bring her fore foot up, and present an inclined plane to the action of the ice.

The passage up the river, through the drift ice, was accomplished without danger. The fast ice, commencing in the neighbourhood of Blankenese, was about nine inches in thickness; and, when attacked by the steamer, was broken with perfect ease, and to a considerable distance on each side of the vessel, leaving a free channel of about sixty or seventy feet in width. The process was only conducted during ebb tide, so that as the pieces became detached they floated away with the current, freeing the vessel from impediments in her upward course, which she steadily pursued, at the rate of about a mile per hour. The only difficulty encountered was opposite Altona, where the branch of the Elbe had caused an accumulation of ice, in many places five feet in thickness; yet even this compact mass yielded to the repeated attacks of the *Pollux*'s iron stem; and, so far as could be seen, without injury to the vessel—another proof of the great strength afforded by iron as a shipbuilding material. Our Illustration is taken at this point in the experiment, and gives a very just idea of the situation. If, then, so much can be accomplished in a few hours by a vessel in no way peculiarly adapted for the work, we may reasonably expect that a vessel constructed for the purpose, and plying constantly during the formation of the ice, will be able to keep the river sufficiently free to allow an uninterrupted communication with Hamburg during the winter. Messrs. Mitchell were present at the experiment, and are preparing designs for an iron steamer to meet the circumstances of the case; and the Hamburg authorities will, no doubt, gladly avail themselves of the experience so liberally afforded them by the owners of the steamer *Pollux*.



NAVIGATION OF THE ELBE.—THE STEAMER "POLLUX" CUTTING THROUGH THE ICE AT ALTONA.



MR. W. S. WOODIN'S ENTERTAINMENT, "THE Olio OF ODDITIES."—SCENE, "THE LAKES."—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

## PARIS FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

SINCE the 1st of January we have seen at balls and soirées several splendid articles offered as presents to ladies and little girls. At the Théâtre des Italiens, the place where the greatest luxury is displayed, some charming ball-dresses have appeared. Flowers for *coiffures*, which were last year somewhat laid aside, seem in greater favour this year; although some persons still prefer gold and silver ornaments. Thus at the last ball at the Tuilleries an English lady of great beauty wore a magnificent robe of purple *moiré antique* sprinkled with bouquets of gold. The skirt had two tunics, trimmed with black lace, the upper part with gold binding. The corsage was similarly ornamented. A dress of gold filigree, trimmed with pearls and ribbons, completed this splendid toilet. Another robe was of white *moiré antique*, with the upper part of tulle *en point d'Angleterre*, upon which were arranged fine purple cactuses, with brilliant leaves of red and green shades. The head dresses matched.

Another favourite fashion this year is that of feather trimmings. A robe of rose coloured tulle, for instance, has four flounces, upon which little white blondes, rose-coloured satin ribbon, and marabout fringes alternate. Marabout is preferred to ostrich feathers for ball ornaments, as being much lighter. Ostrich feathers are, however, worn as beadings to lace flounces for *costumes de ville*.

As to fans, it will be remembered that Gavarni designed the one chosen by the Empress. This fashion continues; and it is from Gavarni's graceful pencil we derive a charming water-colour in the delicate border of Duvelleroy.

Some days since, at the marriage of Mlle. Cravelli and M. le Baron Vigier, the bride's dress was the latest and most splendid of this kind of toilet. The robe was of white *moiré antique*, the skirt of which had two tunics of English point lace, each fringed with white marabout. The corsage was of the same material, high, and a *basques*. It was inclosed in front by a series of little bows, upon which was placed a bouquet of

orange, lilac, and white oak flower-buds, the lower part being finished by delicately thin streamers running in the space between the *basques*: the latter were ornamented with two rows of English point lace and marabouts. Above the sleeves was a bracelet of orange-blossoms; above, a *bouffant en noir*, with marabouts; and below, two rows of English point lace. The whole of this splendid toilet was covered with a lace scarf coming from out the back hair and falling over the shoulders.

Another charming novelty already in fashion is the *Bretelle Napolitaine*. It forms a low corsage, cut square upon the breast, and thrown back: it is made of black lace alternately with *treillis de jas* and of velvet; it finishes off *en pointe*, and floating bows before and behind. It is worn with a low corsage, and replaces the berthe and other ornaments. With a high corsage it serves for an ornament, and completes the toilet.

## THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Robe of white *moiré antique*; skirt without flounces; covered with a tunic of English point. Low corsage, à *bretelles*; short sleeves, à *bouillon*, closed by a wristband, whence comes a small lace flounce *ruché*. *Coiffure à cache peigne*, with ends hanging over the shoulders, and forming a *bandeau* upon the hair.

Robe of white crape with seven *bouillons* of black crape,



PARIS FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

ACONITE (ACONITUM NAPELLUS), MONKSHOOD, OR WOLFSBANE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



## AMUSEMENTS, &amp;c.

**THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.**—The brilliant Pantomime of *THE BUTTERFLY'S BALL* every Evening; preceded on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday by *THE BEAUX' STRATAGEM*; on Tuesday by *THE STRANGER* (The Stranger—Mr. W. H. SIMPSON, his first appearance in London); and on Friday and Saturday by *THE LITTLE TREASURE*. The Pantomime second. Concluding with **ONLY A HAFFPENNY**, as performed at Windsor Castle.

**ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE.**—Monday, the MERCHANT OF VENICE; Tuesday and Friday, HENRY VIII.; Wednesday, HAMLET; Thursday, EVERY ONE HAS HIS FAULT; Saturday, the CORSICAN BROTHERS; and the PANTOMIME Every Evening.

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**SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.**—EXETER HALL—Conductor, Mr. COSTA.—On Friday next, February 15, will be performed, for the first time in London, ELI, an Oratorio, composed by Mr. COSTA. Vocalists: Madame Rudersdorff, Miss Dolly, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. M. Smith, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Weise; with orchestra of nearly 700 performers. A few reserved Gallery Tickets, at 5s., and Stalls, at 10s. 6d., only can be had. The Oratorio will be repeated on the following Friday, February 22nd. Tickets, 3s., 5s., and 10s. 6d., now on issue. The subscription to the Society is One, Two, or Three Guineas per annum. For tickets or subscriptions apply at the Society's Office, No. 6 rooms within Exeter Hall. Post-office orders for tickets to be made payable at the Charing-cross office to Robert Bowley.

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By order, G. GROVE, Secretary.

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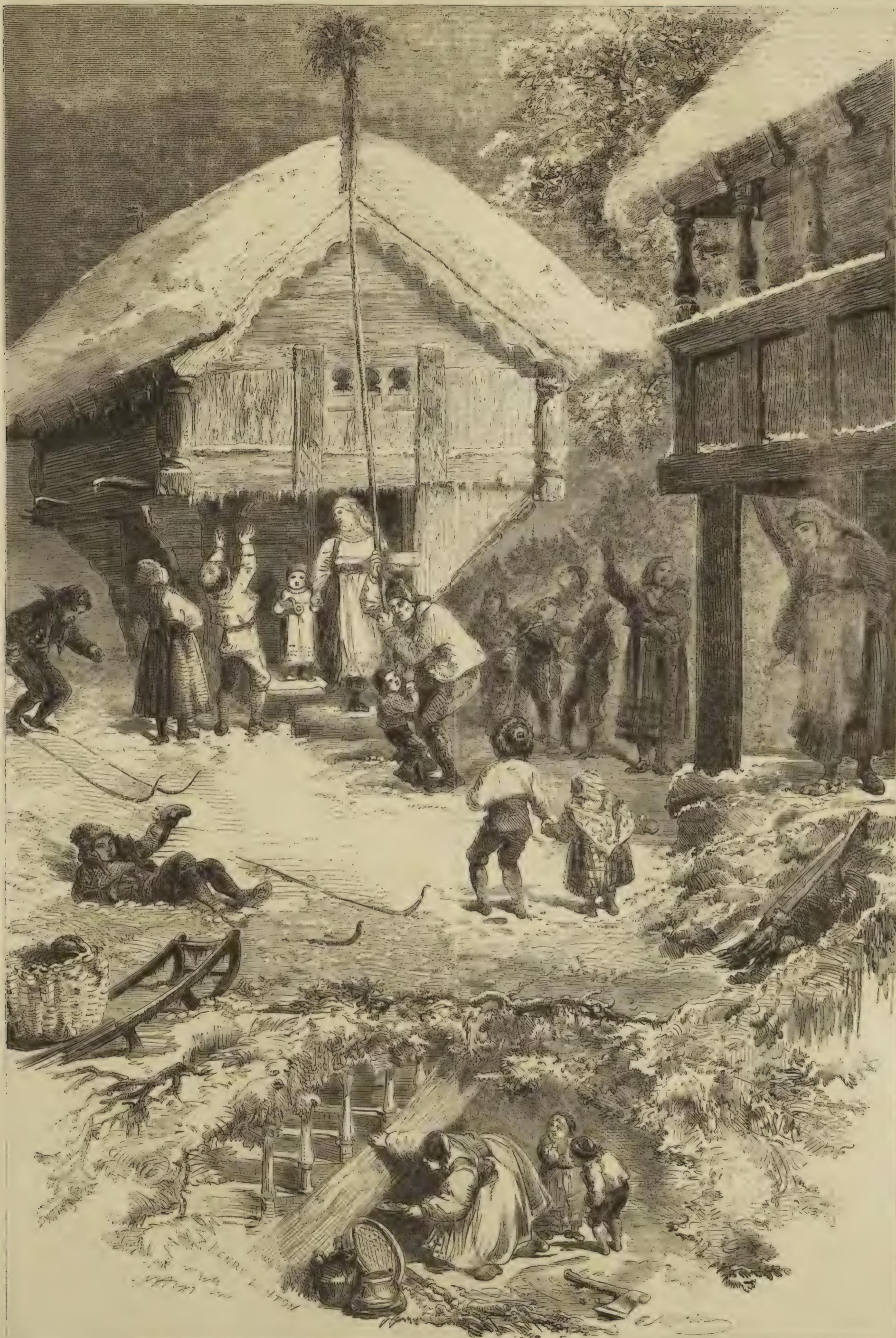
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A PAPER HUNT—THE FIND—BEFORE SEBASTOPOL—SKETCHED BY J. A. CROWE—(SEE PAGE 166)



WINTER IN NORWAY.—FROM A PICTURE BY ADOLPHE TIDEMAND.—(SEE NEXT PAGE)







THE REMAINS OF HIS HIGHNESS THE PRINCE DE SCHINAS LYING IN STATE, AT SPA.

## REMAINS OF THE PRINCE DE SCHINAS LYING IN STATE, AT SPA.

In our Obituary of January 12th we recorded the death of the Grand Postelnik Prince de Schinas, which took place at Spa, where his Highness had latterly resided. The Prince was related to the ancient reigning families of the Danubian Principalities, and Seigneur of Moldavia; and at Spa the high respect in which he was held was testified by the lying in state of his remains, in a chapel erected for the purpose, being visited by the public, by whom the deceased Prince was much beloved.

The chapel and paraphernalia were designed by H. M. Desprez, of Spa. The arrangement of the tall wax-lights and the funereal evergreens beside the bier whereon lie the remains is very effective.

## STEEPLECHASE IN THE CRIMEA.

WE have to thank a Correspondent (an officer of the 17th Regiment) in the Camp, Sebastopol, for the accompanying Sketch of the Grand Military

Steeplechase, which took place on the 3rd of December last, and afforded capital sport. The race represented is the first of the "Grand International Steeplechase," which was won, in good style, by Captain Smith's "Muster-Roll."

## SKETCHES IN THE CRIMEA.—TCHORGOUN, ON THE TCHERNAYA.

"By the shortest road," says Mr. Danby Seymour, in his recently-published work, "Tchorgouna is about four miles from Balacava, and occupies a romantic situation in a gradually-contracting valley, through which the Tchornaya Retchka discharges itself into the bay of Sebastopol. *Here is, or was*, a lofty octagonal tower, which dated, probably, from the time of the Genoese, and, placed half-way between Balacava and Mangoup, was intended to keep open the communication between them when Mangoup was an important fortress." We are enabled to complete Mr. Seymour's account of the Tchorgouna Tower, which was very recently

in existence, and was sketched by one of our Special Artists just previous to his leaving the Crimea. "The Tchornaya (Black River)," says our Correspondent, "is fordable at this place, and a temporary wooden bridge has recently been thrown across here. It was guarded by a picket of Bersaglieri, or Sardinian riflemen, and a picket of French dragoons; and in the Sketch a sentry is seen on horseback. Of the neighbourhood Mr. Seymour gives the following interesting details:—

At four miles from Tchorgouna, in a north-east direction, is the "Mulinaya gora," or Soap-hill of the Russians, which is literally burrowed with pits for extracting the fuller's-earth, which is found under chalky marl, at a depth of about forty feet. The Soap-hill is a gentle elevation, in broad tract of level country, about six miles wide, at the foot of the steep mountain called Mackenzie's Farm. It received this name because Admiral Mackenzie, who was commander of the fleet at Sebastopol, towards the end of the last century, established a farm on the summit of this mountain; for the erection of which a considerable portion of the woods was granted to him, but subsequently repurchased by the Crown for the use of the navy. The Tatar name for the mountain is Kok-agatch, from the numerous white



GRAND MILITARY STEEPELCHASE IN THE CRIMEA.

beech-trees which once covered it. The oak, Christ's thorn, and cornel-tree also grew here; and of the latter the long pipes were made, in such request among the Turks. In spring the ground is covered with large-flowered primroses, bearing white, and yellow, and pale violet blossoms. Veronicas, euphorbias, hyacinths, broad peonies, asphodels, and yellow irises, also deck the ground in spring: and the clematis, wild vine, and wild rose may be found among the shrubs in the neighbourhood of Inkerman.

The Tchorgouna (Black Village) has been destroyed, says our Correspondent; the tower remains. It is of an octagonal form, some fifty feet high. Near it are some tall poplar-trees; on the left is a clump of elm-trees and poplars, under which are camped some hundred Zouaves and Turks. Behind the tower at some 100 paces distance may be seen the ruins of houses, apparently barracks, from their regularity and size. The trees are of very luxuriant foliage. On the right the valley is so full of trees and shrubs that only the tops of the tents of a party of Turks, keeping garrison there, can be seen.

#### LIEUTENANT-GENERAL LIPRANDI.

LIEUT.-GENERAL LIPRANDI, whose name has become familiar to most of our readers, takes a high rank amongst the Russian Generals who have distinguished themselves in the present (we were about to say the late) war. Of his antecedents much is not known. Brought up from his earliest years to the profession of arms, he gradually rose to high command, and enjoyed in an eminent degree the confidence of the late Emperor Nicholas, on account of his cool courage and great strategical qualities.

When the Russians crossed the Pruth, in 1853, and invaded the Danubian Principalities, General Liprandi was sent with a strong division to prevent the Turks occupying Kalafat. In this he did not succeed. Despite all his efforts the Turks seized upon the island opposite Widdin, and on the 17th Oct., 1853, intrenched themselves there. Kalafat was soon afterwards fortified. General Liprandi attempted to carry it by a *coup-de-main*. He was, however, compelled to retreat. The energy displayed by the Turks in converting the open village of Kalafat into a strong-hold of vast strategical importance convinced General Liprandi that the force under his orders was inadequate to show front against an enemy upon a line of battle which extended from Kalafat to the Pruth. The chief command of the 4th Corps d'Armée, to which General Liprandi's division was attached, was intrusted to General Dannenberg, under the supreme orders of Prince Gortchakoff.

In the campaign on the Danube the Russians had the worst of it. Achmet Pacha had rendered Kalafat impregnable. The battles of Citate and Oltenica had proved to the

Russians that the ancient Turkish valour still burned in the heart of the Moslem.

The evacuation of the Principalities having been resolved upon, for strategic reasons, General Liprandi was intrusted with the task of covering the Russian retreat. The raising of the ever-memorable siege of Silistria was the signal of this retreat. There are few sieges on record where the lives of so many men and superior officers were sacrificed in an attack upon outworks. The loss in attempting to carry the Arab Tabia alone is something incredible.

The siege of Silistria was raised on the 26th June, 1854. General Liprandi concentrated his troops in Moldavia. He covered the Russian retreat in a manner which fully justified the opinion entertained of him by the late Czar. The Russians recrossed the Pruth: on the 8th of August the Turks entered Bucharest. They in their turn evacuated the Wallachian capital to make place for the Austrians under General Coronini, who entered it on the 6th September.

Russia, shielded, as it were, by the Austrians, was enabled to send large reinforcements to the Crimea, which had become the real theatre of war. The Fourth Division, under General Liprandi, was among the first sent.

It is from his command in the Crimea, rather than from his previous career, that Liprandi has acquired a great reputation in Western Europe. His energy and daring soon displayed themselves. It was General Liprandi who planned and carried out the attack on Balaklava, the consequences of which to the Allies, had it succeeded, would have been almost irretrievable.

A few days previously to the 25th October General Liprandi assembled a large force near the villages of Tchorgouna and Kamara, where it was in some measure screened from view by a range of hills. The presence of this force was no secret in the English Camp; and, as it threatened to interrupt the communications between the harbour and the lines encompassing Sebastopol, Lord Raglan had ordered redoubts to be thrown up on the heights which run across the plain, at the bottom of which the town of Balaklava is situated.

The force under General Liprandi that made the attack on the 25th October was 32,000 strong. This we learn from his own official report. The attack was made with great skill and resolution. The Turks intrusted with the defence of the redoubts fled. The Russian cavalry then advanced, supported by artillery, in very great strength, but were stopped by the gallant 93rd Highlanders, under Sir Colin Campbell. It would be superfluous to recapitulate what has been so often and so graphically described—the Battle of Balaklava: the thin red line of the 93rd, and that fearful volley which stopped the Russian onslaught; the splendid charge of Scarlett's Heavy Cavalry, and the ill-fated "death



LIEUTENANT-GENERAL LIPRANDI.



TOU RGOUN. ON THE TCHORGUNA.

ride" of the Light Cavalry brigade. Let it suffice that General Liprandi's bold attempt failed.

Since then the name of Liprandi has not been brought so prominently forward: it has been occasionally mentioned in connection with the different localities occupied by his division.

At Inkerman General Liprandi was not engaged: his division made a demonstration on the English right.

We believe a high command was in reserve for General Liprandi. The prospect of peace put a stop to all military movements for the moment. Among the many distinguished names which honour the Russian army that of General Liprandi stands in the front line.

## THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

(From our Artist and Special Correspondent.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Jan. 19, 1856.

As Marshal Pelissier was out not long since with his brilliant Staff of officers, dragoons, and Spahis, he espied a famous group of English Generals and officers rushing madly over the hills in pursuit of nothing apparent to his astonished eyesight. Although a heavy man, and not addicted to hard riding, he galloped towards the party, and was astonished beyond measure to see them following a scent of paper shavings. He reined up uncontrollably, and burst into a hilarious chuckle, exclaiming "L'amusement national. Quel génie inventif!" The French have, in truth, no idea of varying the serious game of war with the lighter pleasures of the chase. A few determined lark-shooters there are, who, leaving their stove and double tent, wander out in the snow in pursuit of "leettle birds," as they call them; but the majority remain torpid in their quarters, smoking the by no means fragrant *caporal*, or passing dull hours in the enjoyment of siestas. There is an overflow of spirits in the so-called phlegmatic Englishman which unsuited him for the torpid state. He therefore indulges in hunting, leaping, billiards, and theatricals—not, perhaps, with the fulness of means or completeness of arrangement which mark similar enjoyments in the mother country, but with as much zest and pleasure as if he were at home. The French, in fact, are like trained game-cocks. When trained to fight, they think of nothing else; whilst the Briton disports himself in moments of relaxation, as if there was no such thing as war, enjoying his pleasurable hour while he may, with a lightness of spirits and determination for fun, which is the more astonishing to our neighbours, in proportion as they apply to him the general notions prevalent on the subject of Englishmen in the sunny land of France.

It was a beautifully clear day on the 12th when the meet took place at the head-quarter house of General Codrington. General Barnard, General Garrett, and a host of officers, had gathered together, to hunt the country between the monastery and Sebastopol. At a quarter before two Captain Blane was observed scampering over the hills towards the former place, carrying an ammunition-bag full of paper shavings. Every one was on the tiptoe of anxiety to know the exact direction he would take—whether towards the instant and overhanging precipices of St. George, or in the undulating ground towards Kamiesch. Horses were there of every size and colour, from the blood mare of genuine English race, to the Spanish barb, the polished Arab, and the Turkish pony. Uniforms were there in plenty: shell jackets of red, staff coats of blue, fur jackets and mousquetaires. The many-coloured throng circled round and round in short curves as the steeds were led by each, whilst the familiar nod of recognition, a passing joke, and sporting talk made up the usual scene of a hunting meet. A few French officers moved amongst the crowd looking round with mingled curiosity and doubt as to what was really the nature of the fun to be enjoyed.

By two o'clock, the chase being supposed to have had a sufficient start, a steady movement was made by the mass of sportsmen at a slow pace in the direction of the scent. The keener and best-mounted left off immediately, cantering up the sides of the hills, and spreading themselves out like skirmishers. Presently a shout was heard; the track had been discovered, and off we all scampered down the sides of a steep ravine, crossed by a fence and ditch. Over went the leaders, down toppled a horse with its rider, whilst the pack passed rapidly on with greater ease through a gap. Up the sides of the ravine again, through wet and stony ground, and on towards St. George a steady race was run. But in the mean while the track was lost. It had disappeared like the thone into the bowels of the earth, or like a stream from an oasis in the desert. The trail was gone—but where? All then was uncertainty and doubt. The hunt separated into widely-distant parties: some sought the track towards the Monastery, led by the impetuous Neville; others took the opposite direction, and cunningly retraced their steps down the ravine towards Sebastopol. The mass kept circling in the undulations to the left; whilst wondering Frenchmen looked up, down, and around them to see what the race was for, and what animal it pursued. In the chase our French friends had been distanced; they didn't like the pace. There they stood, looking on in the extreme distance, enjoying the sight. They could see General Barnard diligently climbing the sides of a rocky precipice, stragglers returning beaten from the Monastery, and the body of riders still at fault. But who, they asked, is that solitary horseman waving his handkerchief? His cry is faintly borne to our ears from a distant acclivity. Can the trail be there? It is. He has found it, and leads. A knowing tracker is Blundell, late master of the drag hounds at Oxford. He is soon followed, and the pace becomes terrific. Over hill and dale they go, over stone walls and small ditches, through mud and stones—many a fall is witnessed in the general rush. A solitary horseman is visible at a distance, he stands, dismounted, near his panting horse. The ammunition-bag hangs from his shoulder; it contains no more shavings. One man—two small flying groups close with him, and the hunt is over. Blundell is first, Ford next, Torrens, Dewar, Dallas, close up. What is the reward? Surely the first up should have the bag. The fox gives up his brush, but here is no fox. Why not give up the bag? But no! bags are scarce, perhaps, and this must be used another day.

Captain Thomas has received a pack of hounds, it is said, at Balaklava; we have heard their well-known voices in the neighbourhood of Kadikoi. Shall we not range the hills of Iznardar after deer, or hunt imported foxes on the bare down of Sebastopol? One man cannot keep a pack out here. The hounds must be divided. "I will keep two," says one; "and so will I," says a second and third. And so we are to have a real hunt one of these days. The danger will, however, be when the dogs are in pursuit of real game. Who shall stay them if they stray in the direction of Russian pickets. Shall we all blindly follow over the hills of Ozembash, or up the vale of Tchuliu? I for my part say no, and think discretion the better part of valour. So here ends my chapter on Crimean hunting.

The weather, which had been fine during the hunt of the 12th became overcast in the evening, which was ushered in by rain. The wind then veered gradually from south-west to north and north-east, when snow set in, whirling into huts and houses with the vivacity of a Canadian poudre, chilling the atmosphere and freezing up everything before it. In a few hours the thermometer fell to 16 degrees, and stopped all sketching by freezing the water-colour brushes to the paper, and variegating the tints with particles of crystal. This state of things lasted two days, when another thaw and rain followed, by which the roads have been reduced to a pitiable state of roughness. There is nothing for it but to remelt and repair as quickly as possible. The thaw was so violent in the sun of the last two days that the evenness of the railway was impaired by it, and the "Alliance," one of our locomotives, was thrown off the rail, where she remained for some twenty-four hours, luckily unharmed.

Much interest has been created by the sudden departure of Mr. Doyne, of the Army Works Corps, for England, on urgent business. It is believed that measures are to be instantly taken for giving a more military organisation to this valuable corps and rendering it more complete and movable. There is no doubt that this is a desirable end to attain, and there seems no obstacle in the way of its accomplishment.

The question of moving the army is itself one which attracts considerable attention amongst military men; and one hears it said by some that we are altogether unable to move, whilst our allies the French can start anywhere at a moment's notice. If it be meant thereby that in an advance to the interior of the Crimea the English army is likely to be behindhand with the French in means of transport, I should give it as my humble opinion that both armies are in the same difficulty. It has never in the annals of war been the lot of an army of 150,000 men to advance into the interior of a country entirely destitute of all species of supply; and no organised army of any nation can do it without enormous additional means, which it may become necessary to procure. The ordinary means of transport of the French army is as inadequate to that task as is that of the British force; and this it is which induces people to speak doubtfully of a campaign in the Crimea or even in Asia this spring. Invading armies find ready means of transport in the common carts of the peasantry of the invaded country. The Russians, when they entered Wallachia, pressed into their service all the bullocks, carts, and drivers of the Principalities; and had the audacity and cleverness to carry with them across the Pruth 70,000 arabs, with their bullocks and drivers. Were we to advance to-morrow into the Crimea, there is no reason to believe that we should find a single waggon, bullock, or driver in the whole peninsula. Every article of food would have to be carried from the coast; and how is this to be done? This question is one of such importance that it cannot but have been taken into consideration long before this, and the sequel alone can show how it has been decided.

Connected with the Army Works is an innovation just made in the arrangements of our Commissariat, which has its utility. The Commissariat is now furnished with a body of skilled men—such as butchers, bakers, *et hoc genus omne*—whose duties have hitherto been performed by sergeants and soldiers of the army. By the play of the new arrangements a large number of men is restored to the ranks, which will partly compensate for the draught of those taken from the regiments for service in the Land Transport Corps.

A melancholy accident, by which Lieut. Messenger, of the 46th, was killed, has to be recorded. He was in command of a divisional road fatigue-party a few days ago, and superintending the explosion of a small mine. The fuse having hung fire, Lieut. Messenger had the imprudence to approach and blow upon it, when the charge was ignited, and blew away a portion of stone, which overthrew all in its way. Lieut. Messenger did not long survive. He was buried on Thursday. A sergeant lost his eyesight by the same accident.

## THE FALL OF KARS—WHO IS TO BLAME?\*

The siege of Kars is a dismal blotch on the fair fame of a war whose results have generally been so glorious and satisfactory. The scene of action, being distant and secluded, the details have but partially reached us; but enough is known of the heroic endurance of the little garrison, during a long, dreary blockade—the culpable neglect of which rested with those who were responsible for their succour and relief—to excite at once the enthusiasm and the indignant reproaches of the world. Of the gallant conduct of General Williams, the British Commissioner, intrusted with the defence, as well as that of the devoted garrison under his command, no doubt can exist, and too much cannot be said in praise; but the more important question, as to where the guilt rests of the cruel and scandalous desertion which led to the surrender of the place, and upon which so many conflicting opinions have been expressed, is one which the information hitherto published does not enable us to decide upon with certainty. The simple yet graphic "Narrative" before us, whilst it abounds in details of thrilling interest, supplies us also with ample grounds to induce us at least to suspend a judgment which we have lately been invited by "leading" authorities in journalism, daily and quarterly, to pass against a very high and respected British functionary as the sole cause of all this neglect and disaster. We, on our part, have no wish to prejudice the case, which must undoubtedly be brought to a definitive issue before long, and merely have recourse to Dr. Sandwith's statements in the light of "materials for history" and aids to judgment.

We pass over the earlier chapters, which relate to previous campaigns in Armenia, and to adventures and observations of various sorts in the East, and come at once to the memorable siege of 1855, which has only recently been brought to so sad a close. The condition of the army of Kars, in the very beginning of the spring, was seen to be so wretched, so inefficient, both in point of numbers and supplies, "as to fill us all," writes Dr. Sandwith, "with forebodings for the ensuing campaign." The Central Government were so absorbed in the great siege of Sebastopol, as to forget all about this Armenian citadel, threatened by a strong Russian army, under an able General; the troops were twenty-four months in arrears of pay, ill fed, their clothes in rags, constant mutinies and desertions being the necessary consequences. Itzla Pacha, the Seraskier Minister of War, was fully aware of this state of things, and in reply to representations on the subject quietly recommended to the newly-appointed Muchir, on his setting out to his Government, "That the frontier fortresses should be abandoned, if he thought they could not be held." This statement is important, as affording the key to all that followed.

In March, General Williams was sent to the defence of Armenia, and with Colonel Lake and Captains Thompson and Teesdale, soon succeeded in putting Erzeroum and Kars in an admirable condition of defence. To organise the army: to feed and clothe the troops; to teach and encourage them in their duty; to repress the peculation of the Pachas and various officials; and to guard against treachery, to which he was exposed on all sides, was afterwards his constant care; and nobly, without repining, did he acquit himself of a laborious and thankless task—persevering undauntedly till the very last, when the treason of which he was the victim was fully revealed to him.

Dr. Sandwith, as chief of the medical staff, and the confidential friend of General Williams, had the fullest opportunity of knowing all that was going on, and a great deal that passed in the mind of his distinguished commander. The facts, he states, are such as, if known to the authorities at Constantinople, ought to have called for instant and vigorous exertion on their part; yet we do not find, from beginning to end, that they did anything, or that a single expectation of the British Commander, and the brave garrison which, from the first, placed implicit faith in him, was realised. It was on the 7th June that General Williams entered the city to take the command, and gloomy enough in forebodings were the very first discoveries he made as to the condition of the blockaded fortress—there being only three months' provisions and only three days' ammunition within the walls. With regard to the latter fact, safety consisted in its concealment from the Russian Commander; as for the former, from the first there was a confident hope that, when the Russians unmasked their plans, and the Central Government heard that the place was invested, it would have ample time to send an army to its relief—an expectation cherished to the last, and all along miserably and shamefully disappointed. Omitting some of the more harrowing details of the sufferings endured both by the garrison and the inhabitants of the hapless city during this memorable siege, we cite, in the order things occur, some of the entries in Dr. Sandwith's Diary, which show how they were kept alive with false hopes in this particular.

On July 17 "a most dismal discovery is made" that there is no barley in the stores, owing, of course, to official peculation; a vigorous investigation is instituted into the state of the provisions generally, the result of which is that the men are put upon two-fifths rations of bread, in addition to animal food. "It is found," writes our author, "that we have still provisions to last until the end of August, and hope by that time to have aid from the Central Government."

\* "A Narrative of the Siege of Kars, and of the Six Months' Resistance by the Turkish Garrison under General Williams to the Russian Army." By Humphry Sandwith, M.D., Chief of the Medical Staff. Murray.

On July 27 we read:—

An Aide-de-Camp arrives from Batoum; he brings word that the order for the march of troops from that place for the relief of Kars has been countermanded from Constantinople, and that some English officers had arrived there, from which facts we infer that a diversion will be made from that quarter in our favour, and that a landing of fresh troops is contemplated.

On Sept. 3 we are told of an order for the slaughtering of starving horses, at a considerable distance from the city; with the addition, "the weather is too hot to allow of this horseflesh being salted or otherwise preserved; and we have no forage. Up to this time the troops have had rations of beef.

On Sept. 8 cheering news is brought of a contemplated landing of Omer Pacha near Batoum; with the remark that a landing at Trebizond would have been much more cheering, as affording more direct and nearer relief. The glorious news of the fall of Sebastopol was received in the city on the 23rd September, and greeted with enthusiasm by the famishing troops. "A grand salute" was fired from the Castle; which the Russians, wishing to disguise its real import from their own troops, answered with a sham cannonade.

By the 6th October there was no more animal food left, and the troops were reduced to a ration of 100 drachms (not quite three-quarters of a pound) of bread, a soup *maigre*, consisting of five drachms of flour, five of biscuit, and five of wheat. Three weeks later the bread was reduced to 86 drachms.

On October 22—

Glorious news arrived, and, like a gleam of sunshine, raises our drooping spirits. We hear that Selim Pacha has landed at Trebizond, with an army of 20,000 men, and that he is marching straight on to Erzeroum. We now feel confident of being relieved, since the road from Trebizond, although a difficult one, is nevertheless quite practicable for an army.

On Oct. 31 comes another despatch from Selim Pacha, who has arrived at Erzeroum with his advanced guard, and tells how his soldiers "loudly demanded to be led on to the relief of their comrades by forced marches. He does not give the number of his army, lest his despatch should be read by the Russians, but he tells us his troops are numerous and first-rate. We have now but to wait for a fortnight and our relief is certain." On the 4th November another encouraging message from Selim Pacha, who is advancing at all speed. Meantime let us take one glance at the horrible state of things which is yet to continue for another fortnight: soldiers brought to the hospitals and dying at the rate of a hundred a day from starvation.

The emaciation is wonderful, yet in most no diarrhoea or other symptoms of disease is observable. Their veins are excessively feeble—a clammy cold pervades the surface of the body, and they die without a struggle. Several of these men are recovered by the administration of horse-broth, with the application of warmth to the extremities. Surgeons are posted in every part of the camp with broths of horse-flesh in the form, and under the name, of medicine. A search is made for surviving horses, and these are secured to make soup for the hospital.

General Williams determines to increase the soldiers' rations by thirty drachms of bread a day—a timely boon, since the mortality has become alarming, and still more so the frightful emaciation of our troops. With hollow cheeks, tottering gait, and that peculiar feebleness of voice so characteristic of famine, they yet cling to their duties. I have again and again seen them watching the batteries at midnight, some standing and leaning on their arms, but most coiled up under the breastwork during cold as intense as an Arctic winter, scarce able to respond to or challenge the visiting officer, and, in answer to a word of encouragement or consolation, the loyal words were ever on their lips, "Radishah sagh ossou!" Long live the Sultan! It would seem that the extremity of human suffering called forth latent sparks of a loyalty and devotion not observed in seasons of prosperity.

On the 16th November, on the sound of some distant firing, "a thrill of joy and excitement runs through the population at the idea of the near approach of a succouring army;" but their hopes are doomed to disappointment: "the report is a false one." Meantime men, sometimes officers, are sent out in disguise every night to find their way to Selim Pacha with despatches in cipher rolled up in quills, urging him to hasten his advances, "as we cannot hold out much longer."

On the 22nd November, when there are not five days' provisions left in camp, the fraud is revealed:—

At six a.m. a messenger comes in with a despatch from Selim Pacha to the Muchir. He was to have left Erzeroum for Kars on the 16th, and would hasten on. Besides this veracious Turkia document there is a little note in cipher from Mr. Brant; it is as follows:—"Selim Pacha won't advance, although Major Stuart is doing his utmost to make him. Omer Pacha has not advanced far from Soukoum Kaleh. I fear you have no hope but in yourselves; you can depend on no help in this quarter."

On the 25th General Williams rode out, under a flag of truce, to the Russian Camp, and signed those terms of capitulation so honourable both to his brave garrison and his generous foe. The wild dejection and bitter indignation of the troops and inhabitants at their cruel fate, is fearfully told:—"We lay down our arms," writes the author, "to our conquered enemy, starved by the dishonest robbery of rascally functionaries, and the bribed apathy and unworthy intrigues of modern Byzantine officials."

There is no doubt that the garrison of Kars were basely betrayed by Selim Pacha and the whole fraternity of Turkish officials. General Williams complained that but for the expectation of relief from this quarter, he would at an earlier period, seeing the hopelessness of the struggle, have cut his way out of the place, after destroying guns, standards, &c., and so have spared the garrison much unnecessary suffering. As little doubt can there be that Omer Pacha was guilty of strategical error in landing at Redout Kaleh, in the rear of the Russian force, instead of at Trebizond, in the territory of the besieged,—in attempting a diversion, instead of direct relief. "Mouravieff smiled," says Dr. Sandwith, "as he remarked to us (after the capitulation) that Omer Pacha had gone to Soukoum Kaleh to relieve us."

To return again to a point which we briefly hinted at in the outset, we do not find throughout this narrative the slightest suggestion of a complaint against any member or department of the British Government, whether at home or at Constantinople,—no complaint of unanswered letters, or other sign of neglect on the part of our Ambassador, who has recently been the subject of much invective, upon this subject; and we can hardly believe that if General Williams had been systematically treated by that functionary, in the manner described in the charges we refer to, the fact would have been altogether unknown to Dr. Sandwith, or that, with the knowledge of such a fact, he would have suppressed all mention of it. Thanking Dr. Sandwith for a very able and interesting volume, we now recommend it to the attention it is so justly entitled to command.

"VERY LIKE A WHALE."—A discovery of great scientific importance has just been made at Culmont (Haute Marne). Some men employed in cutting a tunnel which is to unite the St. Dizier and Nancy railways, had just thrown down an enormous block of stone by means of gunpowder, and were in the act of breaking it to pieces, when from a cavity in it they suddenly saw emerge a living being of monstrous form. This creature, which belongs to the class of animals hitherto considered to be extinct, has a very long neck, and a mouth filled with sharp teeth. It stands on four long legs, which are united together by two membranes, which are intended to support the animal in the air, and are armed with four claws terminated by long and crooked talons. Its general form resembles that of a bat, differing only in size, which is that of a large goose. Its membranous wings, when spread out, measure from tip to tip 3 metres 23 centimetres (nearly 10 feet 7 inches). Its colour is a livid black; its skin is naked, thick, and oily: its intestines only contained a colourless liquid like clear water. On being struck the monster gave some signs of life, by shaking its wings, but soon after expired, uttering a hoarse cry. This strange creature, to which may be given the name of living fossil, has been brought to Gray, where a naturalist, well versed in the study of paleontology, immediately recognised it as belonging to the genus *Archelon*, a genus which has fossil remains of which have been found among the strata which geologists designate by the name of lias. The rock in which this monster was discovered belongs precisely to that formation the deposit of which is so old that geologists date it more than a million of years back. The cavity in which the animal was lodged forms an exact hollow mould of its body, which indicates that it was completely enveloped with the sedimentary deposit.—*Presse Grayaise*.

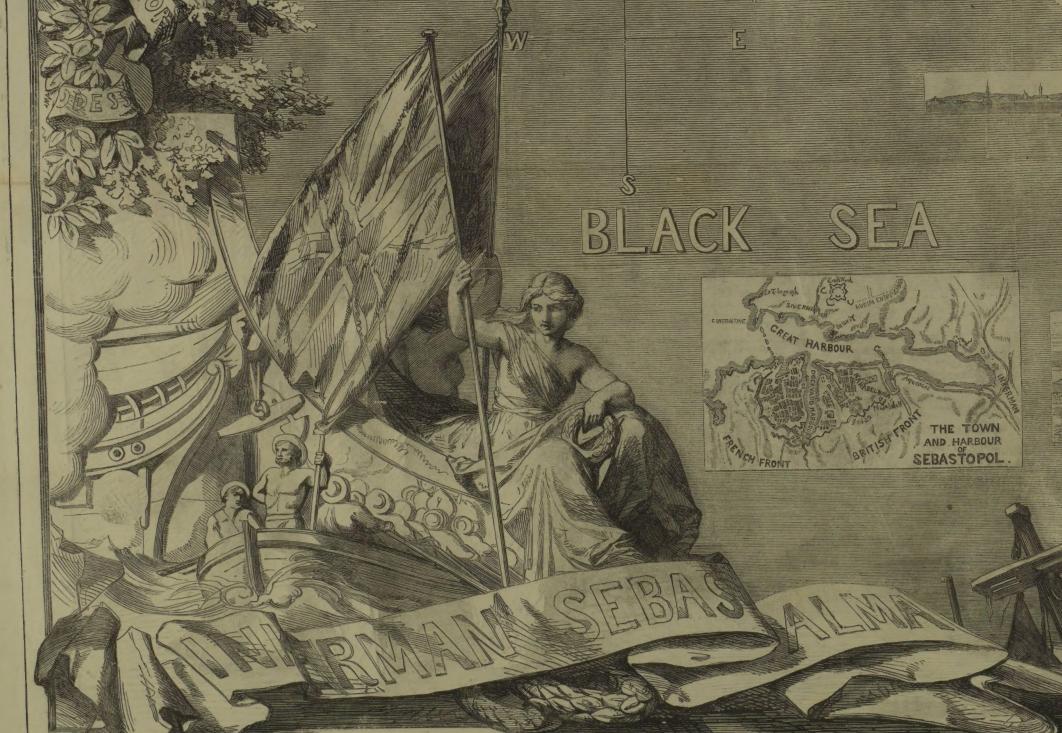


# THE CRIMEA AND ADJACENT COASTS. ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

1856.



BLACK SEA



BLACK SEA



## ST. VALENTINE OF OLD.

## A SKETCH.

SCENE: A lady's chamber, in a baronial hall. On the table lie a number of Valentines, writing materials, &c.

[Enter "DAINTIE DEMOISELLE."]

Demoiselle (approaching the table):

How now, good Bishop Valentine! Methinks Thy crozier hath become a magic wand, Turning men's wits to folly.—By your leave.

(Reads.)

## VALENTINE I.

" List, O list to love's sweet tune, Thou whose beauty mocks the moon: Hear a faithful lover's tale, Thou that mak'st the sun look pale: For thee he bears these bosom-scars— Thee, the twin-sister of the stars!"

" When to yon skies thine eyes turn not, The moon herself is but a blot: In heavens that see not thy sweet face, The sun himself hath lost a grace: Such radiance streams about thy name, The chidden stars go hide for shame!"

" O deem this isle the Latmian plain, Descend, sweet moon, to earth again: Where, shivering, chilled, I mope apart, Come thou, blest sun, to warm my heart! O radiant scorner, near or far, Thou only art my guiding star!"

Dem. Is woman, then, a puppet and a toy, And worthy only to be thus tricked out In the poor, cast-off sweepings of your brains? I pray you, gentlemen, respect us more! Shall beauty thus be coined into a lie? Is Truth a fiction—Love itself conceit— And courtship still a mummery and a mask? Methinks the moon hath more to do with this Than my poor self, or my unlucky stars! Another?—So! hath folly ne'er an end?

(Reads.)

## VALENTINE II.

" When merry bells do ring their bridal peal, And maids go strewing blossoms by the way, From the too sudden face of joy I steal And down before thy feet my bruised heart lay— When merry bells do ring.

" When Sabbath bells call wandering souls to prayer, Inviting Sin its burthen down to rest, Then breathe I straight thy name upon the air, And all my vain presumption stands confess— When Sabbath bells do call.

" When solemn bells toll slow that last sad rite That ushers in the bridal of the grave, In others' darkness find I my true light, Dying, in thought, for thee whose love might save— When solemn bells do toll."

Dem. Certes, were I an undertaker's daughter, 'Twere meet thy groans prevailed, most dismal woe! We'd weep—we'd hold our troth-plight o'er a grave, And wed beneath a canopy of pall! In very truth I would thou'dst been a mute! Why, what comes next? More vain and empty breath? Good Bishop, give me patience to the end!

(Reads.)

## VALENTINE III.

" Might I but touch thy garment's hem I'd ask no kingly diadem; The silken net that binds thy hair Dearer to me than empires were; Nought envy I save that rich zone Which calls thy beating heart its own!"

Dem. Go to! the man's a milliner! I vow A barber's block were meeter for a wife To this so mincing, superficial ape, Than such a breathing frame of earth as I! I'll call my tirewoman; sooth, he shall have My garment's self, my silken net—ay, even My girdle-cord to hang himself withal! But, soft! here's one whose music sounds like truth.

(Reads.)

## VALENTINE IV.

" Count thou my wealth! A soul without a stain, Born to be free— A soul that never yet could brook a chain, Not even for thee: A right good sword—to succour, not oppress; No sword of state, But one, the wrongs of nations to redress Ever in wait: A lance unsmirched, and ever foremost hurled Where Freedom bled; A shield, to keep the battles of the world Far from thy head.

" If this be wealth, to honour and to thee I pledge my all: Should'st thou below thy higher standard see How far I fall; O, patience, gentlest lady! Breathe that word Whose lightest sound Mid the heart-silence of devotion heard Makes virtue crowned: Then, in the fulness of thy richer grace To thee 'tis given To bid me follow where thy b'est feet trace The path to heaven!"

Dem. O, noble soul! Had I a heart to give 'Twere thine without a blush! True soldier thou! What wonder is it that our woman-hearts Still cling about a sword? Who else but he That fighteth for the sanctity of home Should there hold honoured place 'fore all the world? Would I were troth-free, for thy valour's sake!— What have I said? I would not for the world! Out on the thought, disloyal and untrue! Yet why, O why, send'st thou no single word, O love of all my life? What have I done, What said, or thought, or dreamed, that I should bear This rueful penance? Wherefore did'st thou still Walk hand-in-hand with me from childhood up— Wherefore forsake the labours of thy youth To make me pastime, turning toil to sport— If thou'rt too wise for love? Alas! weak heart, That trembles in the silence of the loved! Yet can I but remember of the time When we two roamed together, like the stars In the unchanging heavens—each true soul Upheld and guided, by the law of love. Like, too, the stars, we gazed on this green earth, Radiant in smiles—so full of light were we! No word—not one—nor shadow of a word? Yet stay—what is it I behold? A scroll,

Looped in a golden ring! It is—it must be: This is the very trick of his dear hand! I asked but for a single word—tis here!

(Reads.)

## VALENTINE V.

" WIFE!"

Dem. A simple word! a sweet old Saxon word As e'er took root within an English home, Or blossomed into beauty by a hearth! Illumined, too, with quaint devices strange, Like some rich monkish missal, wrought by hand, That ne'er—pray Heaven be not a monk! How shall such word be mated? (Taking up a pen.) Laggard pen, That will not write what love is fain to say!

(She pauses, then writes a single word, and folds the letter.) So! there,—no more: 'tis writ: now, on my life, I've given thee, love, a " Husband" for thy " Wife!"

E. L. HERVEY.

## CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION TAX.

As some misunderstanding is said to exist respecting the present policy of the service with respect to this question, the following statement has been furnished to us by a well-informed Correspondent, as the correct account of the position of the ten thousand civil servants whose petition Mr. Roebuck is about to bring under the consideration of Parliament.

A petition was presented to the House of Commons in December, 1852, signed by twenty-seven gentlemen belonging to different public departments, in which they prayed that the present deductions from official salaries should be converted into a fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of the members of the service. This petition—which, it will be observed, left the question of the scale of pension (now so low as to be practically useless to the service) altogether untouched, and which deferred till after the civil servant's death a redress of the grievance he complained of during life—was not, previous to its presentation, submitted for the appraisal of the service. In November, 1853, however, 3196 gentlemen—a very small proportion, be it observed, of the 12,000 or more contributors to the tax—accepted this proposal, most of them doing so in utter hopelessness of any better scheme being offered to them, and thinking that, while it would be fruitless to ask Government for a simple measure of justice, they might possibly make some impression by suing in *forma pauperis*.

Now, however, that the Press and very many influential members of Parliament have turned their attention to the question, a movement originating spontaneously with the great body of the service, has been made for an equitable adjustment of the superannuation grievance, by the restoration of a scale of pension that will be something more than a mere nominal benefit to the officers and clerks, and the repeal of a class-tax, which, though laid on for the benefit of the service, is fast becoming a mere source of revenue to the State. This petition, of which Mr. Roebuck has kindly taken charge, has now received more than ten thousand signatures, and therefore expresses the all but unanimous feelings of the parties concerned; but twenty-four of the twenty-seven gentlemen who signed the petition of 1852 insist, in spite of the service, in again forcing their plan on the attention of Parliament, claiming to represent a body that almost entirely ignores them.

It is to be regretted that, at the eleventh hour, an excuse should be given to the Government for getting rid of the whole question, by pointing to an apparent division in the service on this very important matter, when in reality the feelings of more than ten-twelfths of the contributors to the tax are unanimous.

JOHN MITCHEL.—This insane personage has delivered an address, in the United States, on the "Ripening of the Revolution in Ireland," in which he indulges in the foulest abuse of England. He says that in the event of a war, England and France against America, he could promise an army of "40,000 armed Irishmen to invade Ireland at their own expense." In the conclusion of his address he advises patience, and frantically winds up with an appeal to the hereditary hatred of England.

## ANOTHER CRIMEAN HERO.

We have been requested to give insertion to the following communication:

Hyder Pacha Barracks, Scutari, Jan. 9, 1856.  
Dear Sir,—I have long intended to send you the particulars of the case of Private John Dryden, 11th Hussars, who received thirty-one wounds in one day. It has interest connected with it on account of the large number inflicted upon the man within a few hours. He was exchanged at Odessa in October last, and is now at his duty in the Crimea. He is not in the receipt of any pension. You will doubtless agree with me in considering his escape almost miraculous, and that the soldier is deserving of some compensation for his wounds. I am indebted to Surgeon Crosse, of the 11th Hussars, for his kindness in allowing me to examine the man in his presence. My worthy friend will corroborate, if necessary, the statements I am about to bring to your notice.

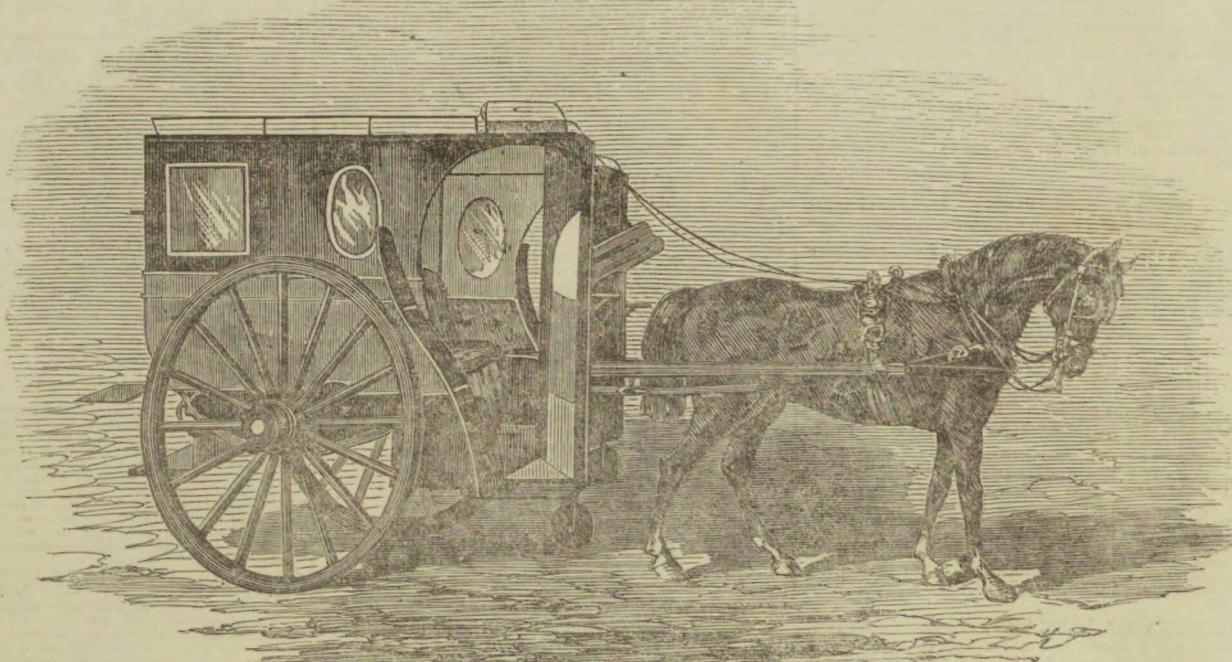
Believe me to remain yours truly,

ROBERT COOPER, Surgeon, 4th Dragoon Guards.

G. J. Guthrie, Esq.  
Outline of the case of Private John Dryden, 11th Hussars, taken prisoner after the Light Cavalry charge at Balaclava on the 25th October, 1854:—Aged 25; service, five years; No. 1617; Scotchman; Dumfriesshire. At the Light Cavalry charge he was cut off and surrounded by about twenty Russian Lancers and Dragoons. He received several wounds before he was dismounted. When on the ground was pierced by lances. He was left for dead. An hour or so after the engagement had terminated some Cossacks came on foot, and speared him. He made signs of life while they so employed themselves: they would not desist. At the time he was weak and faint from the loss of good deal of blood. When night came on he was placed in a bullock-wagon, to be conveyed to an adjacent village, where he remained about forty-eight hours. Was then forwarded to Simphéropol, which he reached at the expiration of two days. His wounds were not attended to, or dressed, by anybody for four days after their infliction. On his arrival at Simphéropol they were washed and dressed, in a manner, by a Russian soldier. In a fortnight after an American surgeon came to the hospital and personally dressed every man's wound. The Russian surgeon had previously overlooked the English altogether. He remained three months at Simphéropol: was then marched up country, being at the time quite well. After proceeding 300 versts was taken ill with fever, which laid him up for three months. He walked from twelve to thirty versts every day; had plenty to eat on the road, being allowed eightpence per diem to find himself. Was exchanged at Odessa in October last, and rejoined his regiment in the Crimea on the 26th of the month, having been absent one year. The following table will afford some idea of the nature and extent of his wounds:

Locality of Wounds.	Number of Wounds.	Class of Wounds.		REMARKS.
		Lance.	Sword.	
Head and Face	6	..	6	Two severe cuts (followed by depressions), each about two inches in length, in the region of the vertex and occiput; three slight superficial scalp wounds in the same vicinity; one cut through the nasal bones.
Trunk, Spinal region	15	..		Twelve large lance wounds, and three small ones, among the spinal and lumbar muscles; the cicatrices varying in size from a sixpence to half-a-crown.
" Lateral region	2	..		One lance and one small lance wound on the right side of body.
Arms	5	4	1	One severe sword-cut at the insertion of the left deltoid, cicatrix 3½ inches in length; three lance wounds on the right elbow; one on the back of the left hand.
Legs	3	3	..	Two on the right thigh and one on the left knee.
Totals	31	24	7	

He suffered most from the wounds on the head and at the insertion of the left deltoid; they were three months healing. It took two months to cicatrize the wounds on the back. He was informed by his comrades who had been in hospital with him at Simphéropol that he had been delirious whilst under treatment. Portions of bone came away from the wounds on the head—one piece as large as a sixpence. Liquor affects him sooner, and in smaller quantities, than it used to do; has slight giddiness now and then for two days at a time; suffers from singing in the ears occasionally; intellect at times confused for half an hour. With the above exceptions he enjoys good health; has perfect use of his left arm; can do everything with it as before; raises it freely over his head. Cannot remember whether he had a cough after the wounds were inflicted: has no recollection of spitting blood; neither did he pass any to his knowledge.—ROBERT COOPER, Surgeon, 4th Dragoon Guards.



MR. ABRAHAM'S NEW OMNIBUS "THE COSY."

OUR allies, the French, have precipitated the omnibus trade into disorganisation most complex; turned the heads of some owners by the enormous sums they have paid for rattling, old, greasy vehicles, and cattle to match; and driven others to despair by the hope deferred that they may be equally fortunate, or by the fear of being themselves driven off the road, and their horses to the knackers. When one hears of an Islington proprietor alone receiving £30,000 for stock and the element time—which means the power of preventing a rival introducing a better conveyance on the road—and of appointments of £1000 or upwards a year on the new omnibus board, and of a fortunate toll-collector at the Walworth gate, expert in correcting the monetary errors of conductors, being established as a functionary with £800 per year—one cannot but feel that the source from which so much wealth is derived should have afforded the public a more grateful return for its patronage, than it has done by years of stolidities, exactions, irregularities, and want of dispatch.

A pretty game of profit must have been played in filling our streets with uncomfortable, unwholesome carriages, which have created a new bronchial disease peculiar to those who ride inside in winter in the foul dense air, and the damp musty exhalations from twelve reeking passengers, mostly invalids and coughing in chorus—living hearseas as they are, pacing at an average rate not exceeding, and mostly less than, four miles and a half per hour, except when, like a cat in a fit, they make a sudden dart to obstruct a competitor. A mine of gold has, it appears, been rolled over in the course of these abominations. We would seek to learn what the transition from disorganisation to a redevelopment is to produce for the public.

There is a rumour, which shocks the *amour propre* of the conductor, that a new telltale, to prevent financial mistakes, is to be introduced. Conductors won't have it: they desire to share with the wife of Caesar the privilege of not being suspected. Another is, that omnibuses of a

more capacious size are to be used to carry thirty passengers—more heat, more forcing through sharp knees, more draggings of wet petticoats through morning-brushed trousers, more fencings with umbrella points, more toe and hat crushings, and an almost impossibility of getting out within a quarter of a mile of the destination. Many more changes and stoppages, thirty passengers and mutations yielding about twelve minutes' delay between Paddington and the Bank, without allowing for the old ladies who wanted to go to Brixton, or the elderly gentlemen who want change for half-a-sovereign, and can't find it.

But these revisions have their advantages—minds are set to work, mechanical skill excited, and enterprise stimulated; and at the present time a novelty has been produced which, if, as seldom happens to be the case, the inventor's expectations are realised, will clear the streets of the cumbersome vehicles which now obstruct locomotion, and afford a more rapid, economical, and wholesome mode of conveyance to the public.

The inventor of this carriage, Mr. H. R. Abraham (better known as an architect), conceives that a well-balanced carriage having no front wheel to drag into holes or tess the passengers, easy of access, and carrying only nine persons, drawn by a powerful horse equal to seven miles an hour, will effect a great saving in cost, and run easier and faster; and the result of many practical experiments induced him to construct a carriage which is to test his opinion. There will be necessarily fewer stoppages, and less loss to the proprietor when only partly filled. The carriage has a *coupé*—a most easy and enjoyable place for three to ride in—and a roomy *rotund*, to carry four passengers; and there are seats for two more outside. We give an Engraving of the carriage, which, as may be seen, is applicable for private use, and, as a church or jaunting carriage, most handy. We hope the inventor will have fair play, and we wish him every success. The carriage is a model of build, executed by Messrs. Holmes, of Derby, builders to her Majesty.

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